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| Trinity Western University |
| Christian view of Evolution |
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| Outline for NATS 490 Paper for Sean Ho |

**Thesis statement:** As Christians we must be both scientifically and theologically knowledgeable, when we research all sides of the issue of evolution and creation we can see that evolution is the means by which God fulfilled his purpose of creation.

**Section Outline:**

1. Old Earth vs. young Earth
   1. Fossil record: fossils significantly change from older to younger providing a basis for changes in evolution (Felix pg. 34)
      1. Carbon dating- radio carbon method (Enoch, 22)
   2. Fossil record has holes:
      1. Most species do not have the intermediately forms evolution calls for(Gitt pg. 28)
      2. Eg. How could an eye have evolved from just random mutations?
      3. Darwin himself wrote, “To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances could be contrived by natural selection seems absurd in the highest degree.”
   3. Cosmology: galaxy at least 10 billion years old (Wiseman)
   4. Geologic Time scale
      1. Problems: rock beds out of their proper sequences, formations missing, misplaced fossils (Felix pg. 33)
   5. Biblical literal understanding: (Plantinga)
      1. universe is only a few thousand years old
      2. Young earth
      3. God created life by separate acts of creation with humans last
      4. The bible is inerrant and a special revelation from God.

d. Science understanding (Plantinga)

i. old earth- geological, paleontological, cosmological evidence

ii. Universe is 15-16 billions of years old

iii. Earth is 4.5 billion years old, primitive life arose 3.5 bill years ago

iv. life grew through natural selection and genetic recombination.

1. Literal vs. figurative of the bible Genesis acct
   1. The 7 days of creation maybe aren’t meant to be taken literally. (Roy Clouser)
      1. Days 1,2,3 correlate with days 4,5,6. Bible gives a teleological count not chronological (light comes before sun)🡪 order of purpose instead of time.
      2. Days are to emphasize the Sabbath on the seventh day.
   2. “While scripture can answer the ‘who’ and ‘why’ questions of creation, God has given us our scientific curiosity to investigate some of the “how” and “how long” questions of what he has done.” – Wiseman, 104
2. Human origins
   1. Time Frame
      1. Homo Sapiens began from 200 000 to 100 000 BC and had cognitive abilities no later than 35 000. (Upper paleolihic period) there appearance was sudden and they expanded throughout the earth in less than 30 000 yrs (supports Christianity)- Arnold
      2. First Adam about 10 000 BC? (biblical account) But this contradicts with the natives in North America about 20 000 BC
   2. Evolving population🡪 natural selection
      1. early hominids descended from nonhominid arboreal ancestors that came down from the trees during a dry period. –
         1. Charles Darwin “The descent of man” Darwin’s survival of the fittest, and variation
         2. Mutations and Recombination (Nichols)
      2. Common Descent: Comparative anatomy and embryology is thought to support common ancestry with animals.
         1. What sets us apart from animals? Language (Git, 29), ability to reason, culture (Arnold)
   3. Direction action of God
      1. Adam and Eve were produced having physical dimensions, not just as “mental” or spiritual beings (Arnold)
      2. God had a plan to create humans it wasn’t just by chance. Revelation 4:11 “…by your will they were created and have their pure being.” (Gitt, 28)
      3. God created man with a purpose- Man made in God’s likeness, to worship him.
3. Integrating a scientific view with the bible
   1. God is the first cause and evolution is the instrumental cause. (Arnold, 131)- God is the creator and sustainer
      1. Adam means “man” and is a metaphor the entire human race (Arnold)
      2. Contradictions with the bible (Arnold)
         1. first ancestors were interbreeding according to the bible but not evolution
         2. the bible indicates that humans are set apart, caused by an intervention by God
         3. Adam had moral reasoning right from the start

b. Complementary view- (Nils Bohr quantum mechanics)- quoted from Alvin Plantinga

i. there can be descriptions of phenomena that are both true

ii. think of light that can be seen as particles and waves

Iii. both scientific and theological views are true about creation even though they appear to contradict each other

**E.** Our understanding of science and our understanding of scripture is limited (Alvin Plantinga)

a. our understanding of scripture is fallible🡪 we once thought that the Earth didn’t rotate because of the verse “He sets the Earth on its foundations, it can not be moved.” Psalms

b. science changes🡪 a few years ago scientists thought the universe was infinitely old now they think it is 16 bil years old

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