

## Transcript of Video: Mr. G's Introduction to the Bible and Science Section

Hey guys, welcome to our next section of the course on the Bible and Science. This section is actually going to be short, only five lessons. We're going to be going over some basics together, and I'm going to refer you to a number of resources that you can look into on your own, depending on your interest in science, your interest in certain branches of science or certain issues, etc.

In this video I'm going to give you kind of an overview of the situation with the relationship between the Bible and science, and then in the next four lessons we'll look a little more at some of the topics mentioned.

To start off, you need to know that most of the discussion on the relationship between the Bible and science centers on the first 11 chapters of Genesis, and whether they represent an accurate account of the origins of the earth and mankind, or are they factually inaccurate. Just a quick overview of what is in those chapters. And if you're not familiar with them, I would urge you to take an extra day and read them over just so that some of the things we'll be discussing will make a big more sense. So here is the brief outline:

- Genesis 1-2: The story of how God created the universe, the earth, and the first people
- Genesis 3: The temptation and fall of mankind
- Genesis 4: The first murder: Cain and Abel
- Genesis 5: The genealogy from Adam to Noah
- Genesis 6-8: The flood and Noah's ark
- Genesis 9-10: Noah and his sons and descendants after the flood
- Genesis 11: The Tower of Babel (confusion of the languages) and more genealogies

The subject of the origin of the earth and of life, how did all this get here, represents a big divide between those who believe in God and the Bible, and those who do not. The mainstream scientific community generally accepts two theories, the theory of evolution and the Big Bang theory, as truth when it comes to talking about the origin of what we see around us. Those are basically theories that attempt to explain all the miraculous stuff we see using naturalistic explanations. Naturalistic means by natural processes, without any supernatural intervention. Basically they work hard to exclude God from the picture.

Christians, on the other hand, believe that God created the universe and everything we see, including humans. And I want to emphasize again something we mentioned when we were talking about the existence of God, and that is that there are a large number of intelligent people, including scientists, who believe that God is the creator, and they believe that the evidence we see supports this conclusion. So don't let anyone tell you that only ignorant people believe in God as the creator. It's a lie.

So how are there intelligent people, even research scientists, on both sides of the aisle? As we've already seen in this course, it all comes down to your presuppositions. The scientists are

all looking at the same data, but interpreting it differently. The mainstream scientific community starts with certain assumptions about what could and could not be possible, naturalistic assumptions, and of course exclude the possibility of God; Christians start with the assumption that God created, and some Christians additionally start with the assumption that the book of Genesis presents accurate history.

I said “some”; it might surprise you to learn that Christians are divided on what this looks like, to say that God created the world. There are a number of different positions, depending on how one interprets the account in Genesis, and how much faith one wants to put in currently accepted scientific theories. The position held by my wife Lee and me is called biblical creationism, or young earth creationism. We believe that the account of creation in the book of Genesis is historical, factual, and accurate. It’s called “young” earth because it takes the genealogies given in the Bible as accurate and complete, and arrives at an age of approximately 6000 years for the earth, as compared to the billions of years assumed by Big Bang and evolutionary theories. It’s called creationism, obviously because we believe that the account of God creating the world is an accurate description of what happened. This is probably not the position held by the majority of Christians, but I personally believe it is the most faithful to what the text says and also not in conflict with scientific evidence. Of course, non-creationists would disagree with that last statement, but the issue is that young earth creationism is in conflict with currently accepted scientific theories (not proven to be true but widely regarded as fact) which are attempts to explain the data without God; but as far as I can tell it is not in conflict with actual scientific evidence, things we can actually observe. Now I am not a scientist, but there are thousands of scientists who are young earth creationists, and they tell us that this position does not contradict the data, and indeed in some cases it explains the evidence far better than competing explanations. My dad is one such scientist. He’s no dummy; he has a PhD in Physics from Johns Hopkins University. In an upcoming lesson we’ll read a short paper he wrote explaining his thoughts on creation. We’ll hear from other creationist scientists as well.

Now, I said that the young earth creationist position not held by the majority of professing Christians. The majority seem to hold a number of different positions that basically accept one or more of the theories currently accepted by the mainstream scientific community, and try to reconcile it with the Bible. There is old earth creationism, which tries in various ways to interpret the Genesis account in a way that allows for the billions of years required for the Big Bang theory. Old earth creationism does reject evolution, claiming it doesn’t make sense biologically and is not supported by the fossil record, which young earth creationists would agree with.

Then there is also something called theistic evolution, which basically accepts all the theories accepted by the scientific community, including evolution, and just basically believes that God is the One who caused these things. They regard Genesis 1-11 as simply a myth or an allegory, not to be taken as literally true in any sense. One problem we see there is that it’s not much of a

leap to stop accepting other parts of the Bible as true if the mainstream scientific community says something that contradicts them. Our atheist friend Richard Dawkins says that theistic evolution is an attempt “to smuggle God in by the back door.”

So I hope that general outline makes sense. To sum up, there are a few main ideas I want you to take away from this introduction:

1. There are a lot of smart people, including research scientists, who believe in God as Creator. It’s not the “smart” atheists and agnostics on one side, and “dumb, blind-faith” religious people on the other.
2. Christians do not all agree on the *how* or *when* of God’s creation of the world. I do believe that this is a very important issue, because it has to do with the authority of the Bible. We should not, however, look down on others who believe differently that we do in this area, or make judgments about them. That goes for people on both sides. Our attitudes in this area should be ruled by love. 1 Corinthians 13:2 says that even if we have all knowledge and understand all mysteries, but don’t have love, we are nothing. My dad is good friends with a man from Egypt, a Coptic Christian, who is also a PhD scientist but is an old-earth creationist. They have some lively discussions and disagreements, but are good friends and regard each other as brothers in Christ. We need our interactions with others to be governed by love, otherwise we are bringing dishonor on the Lord.
3. Having said that, I want you to realize that there are smart people, including quite a few scientists, who do accept young-earth creationism. Their belief is based not just on faith in the authority of the Bible, but on examination of the evidence. If you and your family accept this position, don’t feel ashamed when others look down on you and mock you as anti-intellectual, even perhaps other Christians. And don’t judge those who look down on you. And if you and your family don’t accept this position, please don’t look down on and mock others who do, because there are scientists who most likely are more qualified than you in these fields who do accept it.