

Creationism

Creationism is a scientifically based theology that finds its roots in the creation story of the book of Genesis. Thus, creationism is a belief system that is espoused exclusively by those who believe in the words of the Bible, namely Christians and possibly some orthodox Jews (**Note:** Some people who are not Christians or Jews have claimed to be Creationists, nonetheless). There are several strains of creationism but, in a general sense, Creationists have several core beliefs that they agree upon.

#1) God: God is the God of the Bible.

#2 Six Days of Creation: God created the universe and everything in it in six days and rested on the seventh. This is in-line with a literal interpretation of the Genesis creation account. In the past, some have suggested that everything was created instantaneously. Today, many people claim that each day was representative of a long span of time. Neither of these beliefs are compatible with unadulterated creationism.

#3) Mankind: Humans were created in the Image of God. Mankind was given dominion over the earth and all of its creatures. Mankind is comprised of beings that are capable of reasoning and making moral decisions, unlike the animals they were meant to rule over.

#4) The First Humans: Adam and Eve were real people and they were created directly by God without human parents, whatsoever.

#5 Creation: God created everything out of nothing and the final product of his creation week was a perfectly designed system that was good. It operated in a way that glorified God. It did not include death and suffering.

#6 Sin: Mankind disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. God commanded mankind not to eat from one specific tree, but through temptation by a serpent, mankind disobeyed, was deemed rebels, and fell under a curse that would guarantee labor, suffering, and death. Sin has been part of the human predicament ever since.

#7) The Flood: There was a Great Flood, detailed in Genesis, that wiped out all living creatures that roamed on land. A remnant of every kind of living creature was preserved on what was called the Ark.

#8) The Nations: The current population of the world are all descendants of Noah and his wife. All people were gathered into one city, where God created all of the various languages, and were then dispersed throughout the world.

Why Creationism is Important: Creationism is not a 100% essential belief in order for a person to come to faith in Jesus Christ, nor is it essential for people to abide in him. What a belief in

creationism does accomplish is vitally important in various aspects of one's faith and evangelistic walks.

Need for Redemption: One of the biggest implications of creationism is the need for redemption. When the Genesis Creation Account is taken as being a literal historic event, God's creation goes from being a place without death and suffering where all creatures survived on a vegetarian diet to a desolate land where animals ripped and clawed at one another for the sake of their own survival. When it is taken into consideration that God has always intended good for mankind and that mankind has consistently chosen to rebel against God's goodness, it becomes much clearer why the human race needs a Savior. The New Testament refers to the one who has placed his or her faith in Jesus Christ as a *New Creation* as an indication that the old sin cursed creation has passed away.

Why Evil Exists: One of the most difficult questions that people wrestle with is, "If God is good, why does he allow bad things to happen?" A Creationist can easily answer this question. Since the Genesis account is literal, evil happens in the world because mankind has tainted the good nature of God's creation. Humans are moral beings that can choose to either do what is good or what is evil. All evil in the world can be traced back to the reality that we live in a world that is tainted by sin.

Biblical Authority: By reading Genesis as a historically accurate retelling of events, the authority of the Bible is established from its very first verses. One does not have to consult a higher mind to understand the plain meaning of Scripture. Anybody can pick up the Bible and understand what it is saying based on the context of each respective book. Genesis is written as a book that details historic events. Thus, we don't have to wonder how to interpret the six days of creation. They are not an allegory intended to teach us some deeper spiritual truth; they actually happened!

Worldview: Why is abortion wrong? Why do the rights of the mentally impaired matter as much as those of a healthy mind? Why should people have to work for a living? Creationism establishes a worldview that cuts through the confounded philosophizing that occurs in the secular world, as well as in non-creationist Christian circles. If mankind evolved from an ape-like creature, we would be on no higher plain of existence than the animals. Either animals should have as many rights as humans or humans should have as few rights as animals. Creationism makes a lot of sense out of the world around us and even helps one to know where to stand in politics.

Evangelism: Creationism is an evangelistic tool. People like talking about the origin of the universe and the origin of life. When you engage someone with science that points people toward Biblical truth, or Biblical truth that points toward science, people will become intrigued. But it is not the Creationist's philosophy that will draw people to Jesus, but the relationship opportunity

that it opens up between the witness and the hearer. Most converts to Jesus are won over through the consistent love of a faithful witness.

More information may be added in the future. Feel free to submit questions concerning Creationism to preacherbill174@gmail.com.