

DIVINE DESIGN: Beyond “Intelligent Design”

Genesis 1:26-31

I. Introduction / Background

A. This has been a BIG week for the Creation vs. Evolution Debate!

B. Back on August 1st President Bush said he believes schools should discuss "intelligent design" alongside evolution when teaching students about the creation of life.

C. On August 19th Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (A doctor who graduated from Harvard Medical School!) agreed with Bush – Intelligent Design should be taught alongside evolution in the public schools

D. Of course, then Democratic Party Chairman Howard Dean says Bush is anti-science and there’s no factual evidence for intelligent design.

- 1. The only thing he proved is that he’s proof that not all design IS intelligent**
- 2. Well – maybe the design was intelligent, the creation was intelligent, but something went wrong after that!**

E. This week – Larry King Live! Had a debate on this!

F. FYI - BACK on August 4th 2004 - Dr. Stephen Meyer –

- 1. Director of Discovery Institute’s Center for Science and Culture**
- 2. Had his journal article published the “Proceedings of the Biological society of Washington” –**
- 3. Title “The Origin of Biological Information and the Higher Taxonomic Categories” (Taxonomic means “classification” – Biology “groups” / “classifies” plants and animals according to natural relationships)**
- 4. In Human speak: “The SOURCE of INFORMATION necessary to EXPLAIN HIGHER LIFE FORMS!”**

5. **Thesis of the Journal Article: no current materialistic theory of evolution can account for the origin of the information necessary to build higher life forms. He proposes intelligent design as an alternative explanation for the origin of biological information and the higher life forms.**
6. **I mention him because the Discovery Institute is now at the CENTER of the debate**
 - a. On Larry King Live, Dr. Jay Richards, VP of the Discovery Institute represented Intelligent Design
 - b. From all the reading I've done – Discovery Institute is at the POINT of the WEDGE being driven into Evolution
 - c. They are getting the WRATH of the SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY right now!

G. Intelligent Design = Life on Earth is TOO COMPLEX. SOME HIGHER POWER had to “have a hand” in creation of the world.

H. Think about this!

1. **The average and even above-average Christian has never studied Gen 1-3 in detail –certainly not like any passage of the NT.**
2. **Unfortunately, the average Christian doesn't even necessary believe the creation story is literally true!**
3. **Worse yet – the average Christian doesn't understand that without the literal Creation story there is no real salvation for any of us.**
 - a. If Adam wasn't real, sin isn't real, the need for a savior isn't real
 - b. Rom 5:12-21 A REAL ADAM brought sin into the world and a REAL CHRIST gave a free gift!
 - c. If Adam wasn't real – Rom 5:12-21 isn't real either because Christ would be no more real than Adam, right?
4. **On the other side of the coin – the world – where is the GREATEST secular attack against the word of God aimed today – the creation story.**

- a. Science is trying to show the Bible to be silly nonsense in the matters of scientific fact.
- b. Man doesn't want to believe in sin and if sin comes as the part of some fairy tale written thousands of years ago by a small tribe in a desert...Who needs to believe that?
- c. Science is trying to show that God doesn't even exist – that you don't need God to explain ANYTHING. Science can explain it all!
 - Ernst Mayr “towering figure in evolutionary biology” – Professor at Harvard, recipient of the National Medal of Science wrote in July 2000 Scientific American an article about Darwin and evolution. Listen to this quote:
“Darwinism REJECTS all supernatural phenomena and causations...evolution by natural selection explains the adaptedness and diversity of the world solely materialistically. It no longer requires God as creator or designer...creation, as described in the bible, ...was contradicted by almost any aspect of the natural world.”

5. Let me tell you something about evolution – EVOLUTION IS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE CREATION STORY AT EVERY JOT AND TITTLE OF GENESIS

- a. IOW – NOWHERE DOES EVOLUTION AGREE WITH THE CREATION ACCOUNT!
- b. YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A MORE PERFECT OPPOSITE!
- c. In fact, even THEISTIC EVOLUTION (God started it and left it go...) OPPOSES EVERY ASPECT OF THE CREATION OF MAN!

6. What do you have here? UNEQUIPED CHRISTIANS FACING A FULL FRONTAL ASSAULT BY THE GREATEST MINDS OF SECULAR SOCIETY – Pounding away at the foundation, the door to the word of God!

- a. At EVERY LEVEL – Elementary School to Graduate

School

- b. Even in Christian schools – last year’s accreditation for the college and Seminary said like only 6 or so other institutions believed and taught a 6 day literal creation!
 - c. Even in the churches – where pastors are teaching Genesis as allegory
 - d. Everyone raised Roman Catholic (hundreds of millions) are being taught this! – ALLEGORY!
- 7. Churches are sending people out with a big hole in their armor and the enemy has got his best troops and best weapons pounding us through that hole!**

I. One more thing before we dig into our Text!

1. THREE VIEWS of ORIGINS of LIFE

2. MATERIALISTIC EVOLUTION

- a. Began with Darwin – ALL living organism arose from one simple living cell.
- b. ASSUMES
 - (1) *Matter is ETERNAL*
 - (2) *Spontaneous Generation – that first cell JUST HAPPENED! CHANC!*
 - (3) *TIME = FORCE in EVOLUTION – “If you apply enough time to something, something will happen!”*
- c. NO proof for ANYTHING in Materialistic Evolution
- d. TAKES MORE FAITH to believe than CREATIONISM!

3. THEISTIC EVOLUTION

- a. God STARTED and ORDERED the evolution process
- b. God may have created first life form.
- c. Key: God SET UP / STARTED evolutionary PROCESSES – God DID NOT DIRECTLY PRODUCE everything!
- d. = Christianity’s COMPROMISE with EVOLUTIONARY SCIENCE!
- e. NO biblical basis or scientific basis.

4. BIBLICAL CREATIONISM

- a. The Accounts of CREATION in the BIBLE are LITERAL and TRUE.
- b. KEYS:
 - (1) *God SAID HE DID IT*
 - (2) *God's REVELATION of HIMSELF in SCRIPTURE SHOWS that*
 - (a) He IS CAPABLE of DOING IT (POWER)
 - (b) He IS GREATER than ALL THAT is CREATED
 - (c) HE is ETERNAL

5. Where does Intelligent Design FIT?

- a. = EVOLUTIONARY theory BORROWING some concepts from Theistic Evolution
- b. DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE GOD
- c. But – Theistic Evolutionists say – you're right, we just know that God is the intelligent designer!
- d. = ACKNOWLEDGEMENT that EVOLUTIONARY THEORY TODAY FAILS
- e. Where does it FAIL? At some of its CORE ASSUMPTIONS!
- f. IF Intelligent Design stays around as a theory, it will become the FOURTH MAJOR view of ORIGINS of Life.
- g. WHY are the EVOLUTIONISTS fighting this SO BRUTALLY?
 - (1) *A: It's the first STEP towards HAVING to acknowledge the existence of God*
 - (2) = *Acknowledging SIN and being a SINNER!*

J. Today, I want to study the creation of man as related in Gen 1:26-31. I am going to show you THREE truths of God's creation of man that you must know so that you can be fully equipped with the truth of the creation of man - as you are

responsible before God to do!

K. Background

1. Turn to Gen 1:26 and let's bring us to up this point of creation.
2. By the time you get to v.26 creation is well into day 6
 - a. All of the universe – stars, planets, sun, moon, earth have been created
 - b. All plant life has been created
 - c. All animal life has been created with the land animals being created in the first part of Day 6.
 - d. Literally 5 – 24 hour days have passed...

L. Read starting with v.26

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

II. Truth #1: GOD'S CREATION OF MAN WAS PERSONAL

A. GOD WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED: Let Us make vs. Let

there be

1. CREATION HAD A PATTERN

a. CREATION HAD A pattern

(1) V.26 Then God said / v.27 God created (God “did”)

(2) *God speaks and creates* –

(a) God speaks it into existence

(b) See previously in Gen 1:

V.14 Then God said “Let there be lights...”V.16
God made...

V.24 Then God said “Let the earth bring
forth...V.25 God made the beasts...

b. SO - God is continuing in the same pattern of creation used in Days 1-5 and early on Day 6

c. ALL PREVIOUS CREATION- God said “Let there be”

(1) *Known as “Fiat” creation = Latin for “Let there be”*

(2) “Let there be” = IMPERSONAL form of the Hebrew verb

(a) God is not AS intimately / personally involved.

(b) Used 7X (v.3,6,9,11,14,20,24) – EVERY PREVIOUS act of Creation was “Let there be...”

(c) There’s a “reason to this rhyme” – we will see – God has no personal relationship with all of the rest of Creation – only with man.

1] All the rest of Creation will be destroyed and recreated at the end of time, right?

2 Peter 3:10 ...the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat and the earth and its works will be burned up...v.12 the elements will melt with intense heat!...v.13 BUT according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth...

d. GOD’S PLAN FOR MAN: there is a DIFFERENCE

BETWEEN Day 1-6a and DAY 6b (part 2)!

2. BUT - CREATION OF MAN REVEALED PERSONAL, PLURAL PERSONHOOD OF GOD: Let US MAKE

a. US – God introduces Himself and does so in the plural!

(1) *God speaking to Himself when He says “[Let US make](#)”*

(2) *Can we claim Trinity here? NO – not without rest of Scripture!*

(3) *However, God is showing a RELATIONAL and PERSONAL aspect of Himself – HE IS PLURAL and yet ONE (all previous references + v.27)*

(4) *God is intimately involved in this step of Creation!*

(5) *God’s language is signally us that something special is about to happen.*

(a) God has everything else in place – universe, stars, plants, animals, - Let there be, Let there be, let there be...

(b) and now He personally steps up and says “Let US make man”

(6) *BY saying [Let US MAKE](#) – He is letting us know that*

(a) HE IS COMMUNICATING with OTHERS

(b) He is IN COMMUNION with OTHERs in this creation

(c) From the testimony of Scripture know that the whole Trinity was involved in the creative act.

(d) Did they just do it on a whim? Impulsive act?

(e) NO – BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD GOD PLANNED ALL OF THE REDEMPTIVE HISTORY OF MANKIND

b. [MAKE MAN](#) – action / deed

(1) *> speaking*

(2) *DIFFERENT than all other inanimate creation*

[Genesis 2:7](#) Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his

nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

c. “MAN”

(1) = Literally “adam” –not used as a Proper name

(2) speaks of mankind as the end of v.27 shows us “male and female He created them”

(3) It is related to the Hebrew word for “earth” - since man’s body is formed out of the dust of the earth (2:7)

(4) Interesting that man is given dominion over that from which he was formed.

B. MAN WAS CREATED AS A PERSON FOR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

1. God Created man In the image of God (V.26,27)

V.26: in Our image, according to Our likeness;

V.27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him

a. Grammar:

(1) In Our image = according to Our likeness (synonyms for emphasis)

(a) Notice there is no “and” between them – the are what we call “appositional” – set back-to-back saying the same thing.

(2) Emphasis: 4X in 2 verses!...created in the image of God.

2. What is the image of God?

a. I like Hamilton’s quote “It is clear that v.26 and 27 are not interested in defining what is the image of God in man!”

(1) *Represents the difficulty the expositor faces here!*

b. Found 4X in OT – 2X here.

c. Word for image means

(1) “to chop off, hew, cut, to carve;”

(2) *Man is a*

- (a) “chip off of God”
- (b) carved / shaped like God
- (c) Created on the divine pattern
- (d) God is the original – man is somehow a copy
- (e) When you look at man, the copy, you should know something about the original, God.
- (f) Beyond biology and life itself
 - 1] we share those with animals
 - 2] Because we live in the same biological environment

3. Image of God can be summed up by a few distinctives that separate us from the rest of creation

a. Every human being is ETERNAL

(1) *Eternally either in HEAVEN or HELL!*

(2) *No other earthly creature is eternal*

[Ec 3:11](#) He has also set eternity in their heart,...

[Ec 3:21](#) Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth?

(a) Man goes on to eternity

(a) Animals go to death – no eternity

(3) *Will science ever be able to discover a place in the anatomy of a human being that is eternal?? NO!*

(4) *In addition to ETERNAL, the image of God means...*

b. We are persons made for RELATIONSHIP

(1) *We live on the basis of relationships...relationships. We understand fellowship. We understand love.*

(2) *What about angels?*

(a) They're eternal

(b) Are they persons?

(c) Are they made for relationship? No.

(d) Listen to Heb 1:14

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

(e) Angels are “ministering spirits” – NO MORE!

(3) *We understand*

(a) Relationship / fellowship

(b) communion.

(c) Sharing LIFE: thoughts, attitudes, ideas, experiences with others.

(4) *And that is why when God created man He immediately said it is not good for man to be alone. Why?*

(a) Because the image of God is personhood

1] which can only function in relationship.

(b) The image of God, folks, is the capacity for personal relationships.

(c) Most importantly for a personal relationship with God.

(d) When God said let us make man in our image, He introduces to us at that point the concept that He is a God of relationship and then creates us in that image so that we are creatures of relationship.

(5) *The mystery of the origin of personhood is that the one God exists as three persons in one being, or substance, or essence or reality.*

(a) BUT the one being of God involves personhood.

(b) He made us as persons and that is He made us for relationship – WITH HIM

(c) PART OF THE REDEMPTIVE PLAN

(d) WE ARE TO BE A LOVE GIFT FROM THE FATHER TO THE SON – FOR RELATIONSHIP.

c. We have a conscience (Rom 2:14-15)

14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

- (1) *I know GOD'S right from wrong.*
 - (2) *I understand virtue.*
 - (3) *I understand morality.*
- d. Does the body of man bear the image of God?
- (1) *No, not in the purest and truest sense.*
 - (2) *But we are dust to dust, and that's not like God.*
 - (3) *The personhood is eternal and that's like God.*
 - (4) *the body ONLY serves as a vehicle through which the image of God is manifest.*
 - (a) So while the body is not the image of God, because God is a spirit and has not a body,
 - (b) My body gives me the vehicle in a physical world for the image of God to manifest itself.
 - (5) *REMEMBER - God knew that in the fullness of time even He would become a man.*
 - (a) He would prepare a human body for His Son (Heb 10:5)
 - (b) it would be made in the likeness of men just as man had been made in the likeness of God. (Phil 2:7-8)
 - (6) *SO – conclusion: BODY not made in the image of God*
 - (a) BUT – it is special
 - (b) SOMEHOW is made to MANIFEST image of God
- e. YET - As a human being I resemble the other living creatures in my physical form.
- (1) *I am made up of flesh.*

- (2) *I am made up of the same components.*
 - (3) *But what makes me distinct is my invisible part. It's the part that you can't find in my DNA. It's the part that's not in the chromosomes.*
 - (4) *It's that IMAGE OF GOD*
 - (5) *It's that true person that makes me like God, that is capable of relationship with you and with God.*
 - f. So we are created in the image of God, personhood, relationship and understanding of right and wrong and morality which is critical to all our relationships, particularly our relationship to God.
- 4. Creates a “gulf” “chasm” “difference” between man and animals that CANNOT be bridged.**
- a. No animal COULD EVER become a man
 - b. Not only because they were created separately, uniquely, “as-is”
 - c. BUT ALSO, no animal was / will ever be made IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. –
 - (1) *NEVER be ETERNAL.*
 - (2) *NEVER have a PERSONAL INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP with God.*
 - d. Evolution will have to ALWAYS lie because no animal can “acquire” the image of God!
 - e. Evolution – is it monkey becoming a man OR is it really Man making a monkey out of himself?! (best T-Shirt ever!)
- 5. Conclusions:**
- a. There couldn't be a more straightforward account of man's creation than that!
 - (1) *God tells you exactly what He did on Day 6 –*
 - (a) one day not millions of years.
 - (2) *And He did it according to His PLAN*
 - (a) Not by chance through genetic mutation
 - (3) *He did it from the DUST of the earth*

- (a) not evolved from animals
 - (4) *He made man different from all other living creatures*
 - (a) IN THE IMAGE OF GOD – won't find that in DNA
 - (5) *The creation account DIFFERS AT EVERY POINT from evolution AND theistic evolution!*
- b. Does Scripture support this account?
- (1) [Is 45:12](#) *"It is I...says God...who created man*
 - (2) [Job 33:4](#) *"The Spirit of God has made me"*
 - (3) [Deut 4:32](#) *–day that God created man on earth*
 - (4) *Jesus – Matthew 19:3-5*

"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And [Jesus] answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH?"
 - (5) *Paul – argues women's role in the church from creation*

1 Tim 2:13-14 - For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.
 - (6) *FITS THE WHOLE PLAN OF REDEMPTION!*
 - (a) [John 17:24](#)

24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
 - (b) WE WERE MADE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD!

C. ASIDE: Man ALSO CREATED to RULE over ALL the REST of CREATION that he is DISTINCT FROM!!(v.26-30)- ANOTHER SERMON!

1. **RULE(v.26,28,29):** V.26 and let them RULE over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”V.28 ...FILL the earth, and SUBDUE it; and

D. TRANSITION: WE HAVE JUST SEEN:

1. God’s creation of man WAS PERSONAL
2. God was PERSONALLY INVOLVED in the CREATION OF MAN!
3. MAN was created AS AN ETERNAL PERSON FOR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP!
4. Do you know what evolution teaches? NOT PURPOSE- BUT CHANCE and RANDOMNESS
 - a. Man, through survival of the fittest
 - b. Has climbed the highest out of the primordial soup!
 - c. EVOLUTION MAKES CREATION IMPERSONAL!
 - d. DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED to the true CREATION ACCOUNT!

III. Truth #2: GOD’S CREATION OF MAN was PERMANENT

A. V.30 and it was so. (4 other times: V.9,11,15,24 before)

1. =“it was fixed, it was permanent – that’s the way it stayed!”

B. At beginning, God: “Let there be light”

1. BUT no “it was so”
2. This was light not attached to stellar bodies – not permanent light
3. BUT v.15 after moon, sun, stars – it was so

C. God created the earth – mass of elements in water

1. BUT no “it was so...”
2. WASN'T it's PERMANENT shape/form
3. BUT v.9 God separated the waters and there was dry land – the way it was to permanently be – “it was so” (v.9)

D. God created the animals – v.24 It was so... just the way they are today – within their own kind.

E. HUGE DIFFERENCE between

1. God's intermediate steps of creation AND
2. Evolutionary intermediate steps!

F. Closely related to the permanence of creation...

IV. Truth #3: GOD'S CREATION OF MAN was PERFECT

v. 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

A. V.4 light was good

B. V.10, dry land and sea was good

C. V.12 plants good

D. V.18 stellar bodies

E. V.21 creatures of the sea and air

F. V.,25 land animals

G. V. 31 man=very good

H.=NO deformities, mutations, imperfection, inferiority, death...

I. I.e. no

1. natural selection
2. survival of the fittest (were no unfit)
3. No death!

J. IT ENDED PERFECT: V.31 And there was evening

and there was morning, the sixth day.

K. OF COURSE – At this point you have to teach Genesis 2 and especially Genesis 3 – the FALL because all is NOT “very good” today BUT will be at the end of time with the new heavens and earth

V. Conclusion.

A. 5 verses are the necessary basis for

- 1. The truth concerning the creation of man**
- 2. The springboard for teaching the detailed account of**
 - a. Creation in Genesis 2
 - b. the Temptation, Fall and Curses of Genesis 3.
 - c. The new heavens and earth at the end of time (Revelation 21:1-6)

B. Three Truths about the Creation of Man

- 1. Every one of them the truth of God regarding His creation of man**
- 2. Every one of them diametrically opposed by evolution and even by theistic evolution!**
- 3. God made man an ETERNAL PERSON for PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP**
 - a. Evolution is by chance with no supernatural existence
 - b. Evolution says man is nothing more than the highest form to yet come out of the primordial soup.
 - c. Certainly man is not made special and different from the rest of creation
- 4. God made it permanent and perfect – did it right the first time with no plan to evolve.**
 - a. Evolution – no such thing.
 - b. Survival of the fittest.
 - c. Reward and punishment

- d. Experimentation and design.
- e. Intermediate life forms.
- 5. At every point – at every jot and tittle evolution opposes creation!**
 - a. Theistic evolution is most interesting because it buys into some degree of the beginning of the creation story – that God started it all and then let it go.
 - b. You know what that does? IT BACKS GOD OUT OF THE STORY BEFORE THE CREATION OF MAN IN 1:26-31!
(1) IT DENIES THE REDEMPITIVE PLAN OF GOD
(2) AND HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF HIS GIFT TO HIS SON.
- 6. Intelligent Design – Well , let’s just say that they’re STILL a LONG way from DIVINE DESIGN!**
 - a. Just HONEST EVOLUTIONIST who KNOW that their CURRENT answer is WRONG!

C. Pray that God WILL use this current attention on CREATION to bring people to salvation

D. Pray AND BE READY for God to USE YOU in that process!

- 1. Be willing to ask someone what they make of “all this attention to Intelligent Design in the news and politics”**
- 2. Then See how God opens a door for you!**