Quick Answers to Tough Questions

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BRYAN OSBORNE & BODIE HODGE

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What is going on in our culture?

What is happening? To the honest observer, it is clear that America is undergoing a rapid moral and cultural revolution of unprecedented momentum. America is becoming less Christian and more secular with each passing moment. We now live in a culture where the Bible, prayer, Christian symbols, and Christianity as a whole are increasingly attacked and marginalized. And it's all taking place in a nation founded on many biblical principles!

This revolution is not limited to America; it's happening all across the Western World. But the fact it is happening in America is quite astonishing. Why? Because America is one of the most "Christianized" nations ever. Right now it has more Christian resources (churches, seminaries, Christian colleges, bookstores, TV and radio stations, etc.) than any other nation has ever had throughout all of history! And yet Christianity is quickly fading away in America.

Why is this happening? As referenced in Psalm 11:3, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" There has been a foundational shift in our culture from God's Word as the authority to man's. This transformation did not happen overnight. It occurred in much the same way a person is carried by the ocean's tide when playing in the waves. One moment you're having a great time, and the next you look up and don't even recognize where you're at.

BIBLE REF. Psalm 11:3 Matthew 7:24–27 Colossians 2:8 Jude 1:3

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If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?

But what allowed this steady erosion of biblical authority in the American culture? A loss of biblical authority within much of the church. The concession of biblical truth, especially in regard to origins, allowed the infiltration of secular ideas into the church. The culture has invaded the pews. Like Israel of old, the church has adopted doctrines of the current pagan religion, leaving it impotent to influence the surrounding culture. And like Israel of old, the first order of business must be repentance inside the church before there can be influence outside the church.

Why the division over creation vs. evolution?

Many Christians believe there is no need to quarrel over creation vs. evolution. They say, "Christians have lots of different views on other subjects, like baptism, tongues, eschatology, etc. Can't Christians have different views on origins?"

The short answer? No. And here's why. For the most part, when Christians have different understandings or interpretations of a particular doctrine, they stay within Scripture. Take eschatology, for example. There are

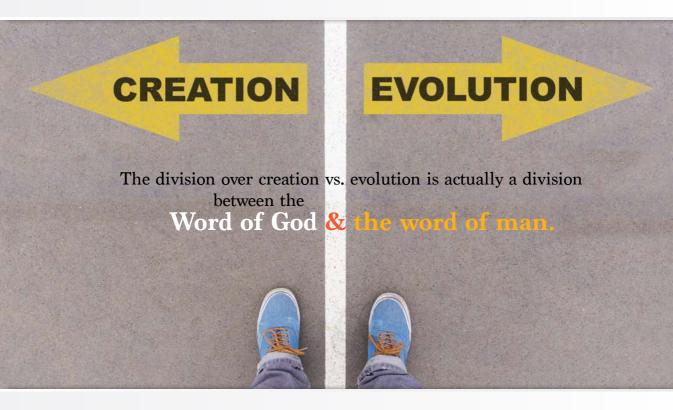
lots of different views: pre-mil, post-mil, a-mil, wind-mil, tread-mil, etc. And in most instances, the people who hold to these different positions view Scripture as the authority for their positions. They're comparing Daniel with Ezekiel and Revelation to try to rightly understand God's Word. They're using the best commentary on the Bible, which is the Bible!

But this is **not** how Christians arrive at different views of origins. The way Christians get different understandings of Genesis is by reinterpreting it with ideas **Outside** of the Bible. Imposing **Secular** ideas like evolution, the presupposition the earth is millions of years old, uniformitarianism, and naturalism (all tenets of the **Pagan religion** of humanism) *onto* the Bible results in things like The Day Age Theory, Gap Theory, Progressive Creation, Theistic Evolution, Framework Hypothesis, Cosmic Temple, etc.

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EVOLUTIO

Ephesians 4:13-15 Romans 16:17 Romans 5:12 2 Timothy 3:16



All of these compromised ideas lead to major textual, doctrinal, and theological contradictions, as we'll see later on. This bending, editing, and manipulating of the Word of God is a failed attempt to make it bow to the word of fallible, finite, sinful man.

The division over creation vs. evolution is actually a division between the Word of God and the word of man. Either God's Word is true or man's word becomes the final authority.

Indeed, the body of Christ is to be unified (Ephesians 4:13–15), but that unity is founded upon the explicit truth of Scripture (Romans 16:17, 2 Timothy 3:16). Will Christians stand united on God's Word, trusting that the Creator of the universe can communicate effectively? Will we believe the account of origins clearly articulated in Genesis, affirmed by Jesus and the biblical authors, and confirmed by science?

Biblical authority

If you took a stethoscope and listened to the heartbeat of our ministry, Answers in Genesis (AiG), what would you hear? Biblical authority. We often share that AiG is not a creation vs. evolution ministry. AiG is about reaching our lost world and building up the faith of Christians by defending the authority of God's Word where it's being attacked today.

There is no doubt the Bible is under a barrage of assaults today. And one of the primary areas where the enemy has focused his attack is against the Bible's history. Particularly the history revealed in Genesis 1-11.

In a real sense, the devil has executed a covert attack on the foundation of God's Word by getting people to doubt the history of the Bible, with things like evolution, ape-men, big bang, millions of years, etc., to undermine the authority of the Bible, to ultimately undermine the Gospel that's based on that authority.

Therefore, we strive to alert believers to the present-day attack and encourage Christians and the Church at large to heed the command of 1 Peter 3:15:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

It is this theme that pulses through AiG's veins, whether we're talking about the state-of-the-art Creation Museum, the

BIBLE REF. Genesis 1–11 John 3:16 John 17:17 Titus 1:9 1 Peter 3:15

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If the Bible cannot be trusted when it talks about history, why should anyone trust it when it speaks about salvation?

phenomenal Ark Encounter, our website at answersingenesis.org, our chronological ABC Sunday School curriculum, our world-traveling speakers, our books, our videos, or our curricula, etc.

All of it is dedicated to fighting on the front lines of the modern battle to promote the authority of God's Word, answering the skeptical questions of this age, demonstrating that God's Word is true from cover to cover, and leading to the powerful proclamation of the Gospel.

Bottom line: if the Bible cannot be trusted when it talks about history, why should anyone trust it when it speaks about salvation? If Genesis 1:1 is not true, neither is John 3:16.

It's an issue of authority.