

## God and His Ways

For more than two centuries, much of the scientific community has opposed the idea that the universe was created by a direct act of God.

### Creation – Biblical Evidence

Some people who view themselves as Christians are embracing the ancient beliefs of pantheism and dualism.

**pantheism – 1** : a doctrine that equates God with the forces and laws of the universe. **2** : the worship of all gods of different creeds, cults, or peoples indifferently.

**dualism** – a doctrine that the universe is under the dominion of two opposing principles, one which is good and the other evil.

One popular expression of dualism is the *Star Wars* movies. These movies postulate the existence of a universal ‘Force’ that has both a good and a evil side. There is no concept of one holy and transcendent God who rules overall and will certainly triumph overall.

The doctrine of creation *ex nihilo* (Latin, “out of nothing”) directly contradicts both of these worldviews. Scripture teaches that everything in the universe – other than God – is temporal and created.

God spoke the world into existence, creation by *fiat* (Latin, “let it be”).

Truth or Error (pg. 36) – The quotation in the text is erroneous. Mr. Feiler professes faith in pantheism.

### *In Six Days*

The Genesis account of creation eloquently affirms the power, wisdom, and authority of God by recording that the entire universe was created in only six days. While giving the Ten Commandments, God reiterated that His work of creation took only six days: “In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is” (Exodus 20:11).

The “beginning” of Genesis 1:1 apparently refers to the beginning of the Creation of the world. Ussher fixed the time as 4004 B.C.

- “There was an actual, factual, historical, supernatural Creation of the heavens, earth, and man by God. To deny, adjust, or compromise this by casting doubt on the reliability of Genesis does not do away with this truth, for the original creative activity is mentioned elsewhere in the Bible (Ex. 20:11; 31:17; 1 Chron. 1:1; Job 38:4-7; Matt. 19:4-5; 1 Cor. 11:7-8). If Genesis is untrustworthy, so must other parts of the Bible be.”<sup>1</sup>

Modern science attacks this aspect of the Bible’s account more than any other. Referring to geological and astronomical evidence, many maintain that the biblical account is not scientifically credible.

*Geological evidence* indicates that the earth’s surface is composed of many layers of sediment. Geologists and biologists believe that each layer represents a different time period of great length. They believe that the earth is approximately three billion years old.

*Astronomical evidence* – Since we today are able to see the light from stars millions of light years away, it seems impossible for the universe to be only a few thousand years old – as the account in Genesis 1 indicates.

Light speed in vacuum –  $2.997925 \times 10^8$  meters/second.

299792500 meters	86400 seconds	365 days	1 mile
second	1 day	1 year	1609 meters

**light-year** – a unit of length in interstellar astronomy equal to the distance that light travels in one year in a vacuum or about 5,875,858,470,000 miles.

The cluster of stars known as the Pleiades is one of the most recognizable objects in the night sky. In 2004, a group of astronomers obtained a highly accurate distance to one of the stars of the Pleiades known as Atlas – between 434 to 446 light-years from Earth (2.6 quadrillion miles).

Some creationists believe that man was a recent creation, but the earth is not. The following theories often go along with this view.

The **gap theory**, more inventive than perceptive, states that a gap of millions of years should be understood between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. The gap concept does not have good exegetical support.

The **day-age** theory states that each creative day in Genesis 1 was actually a period of many millions of years. There is insufficient evidence to support this view. Rather, solar days are indicated.

- “Science may contribute to our understanding but it must never control or change our interpretation of the Scriptures in order to accommodate its own findings. As far as man is concerned, Creation teaches that God created the first man in His image from the dust of the ground and His own breath of life (Gen. 1:27 and 2:7). No subhuman creature was involved, nor was any process of evolution.”<sup>1</sup>

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>*Basic Theology*, Charles C. Ryrie, pages 173-188.

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### Reference

*God and His Ways Teacher's Edition*, by Layton Talbert, Ph.D., BJU Press 2001.

One popular symbol of Chinese dualistic thinking is the *yin-yang* image – a circle that is half black with a “white” seed in it, and half white with a “black” seed in it. This symbol represents the belief that the “whole world consists of two opposing yet complementary forces, yin and yang, which are optimally in perfect balance with each other.” Yin is the passive force that is associated with femininity, mystery, darkness, cold, moisture, and the earth. Yang is the active force that is associated with masculinity, clarity, light, heat, dryness, and the sky. Neither force in itself is good or evil. Good is the proper balance between the two; evil is an imbalance in either direction.

### Fill in the Blanks