

Training For Guys

How do I square Evolution with the Bible?

The first thing to say is that it is the same God who made the universe as the One who wrote the Bible. The two things have to agree. In fact, the Bible says that they do "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (Psalm 19:1).

Whether it is something huge such as the Andromeda Galaxy or as small as the component parts of the Hydrogen Atom, 'the Lord God made them all'.

Christians believe that, whether they believe in 6-day specific creation or in a long process of evolution guided by God. But an atheistic evolutionist such as Dr Richard Dawkins does not believe that. They would say everything we see came about by random processes without a Creator.

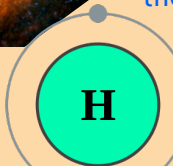
So the first thing to say is that there are two different meanings to the word 'evolution'. The meaning the Christian has, and the meaning Richard Dawkins has. You can't 'square' Dawkinism with the Bible because the Bible is True and Dawkinism is False.

It's the same for many things in our world today. So many of the issues of modern life are based on false premises that exclude God. As Christians we need to know His Word well enough to be able to distinguish between false things and truth...to be able to 'discern the spirits' behind ideas (What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what

God has freely given us. ...The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of



Andromeda Galaxy



Hydrogen Atom

God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.) 1 Corinthians 2:12,14

The most important thing you need to read in this issue is the next sentence: What this means is that we need to know God's Word well, in order to be able to hear His Spirit clearly in all things. It's not enough just to read it, we have to grapple with it and pray about it. We need to do that alone and we need to do that in groups. If you are casual about your approach to the Bible then now is the time to 'man up' to taking it seriously. Even if you find reading difficult, there are ways to get into the Bible. Now is a good time for members of the Facebook group to share ideas about what helps them with the Bible.

Back to the question! We need to distinguish facts from interpretations.

Facts from the Bible:

God is the Creator.
He spoke, and things have their being.
He did this in 6+1 time periods
He called days (with evenings and mornings)

Humans were the last act of creation, full stop. There was a Flood that destroyed all life bar that saved by God through Noah.

Facts from observations of nature:

There are similarities between different creatures
Skeletons have been found for animals that no longer live on earth.

Stripped of interpretations, it is easy to see that those lists fit together with no problem.

You will notice, of course, that I have avoided the "evolution or special creation" discussion... there isn't space here to do it justice but personally I don't believe God used evolution. There are many scientists who are Christians who look at the facts and interpret them rather differently to Dr Dawkins, and who believe fully that the Bible and observations of the natural world fit together well. (If you want to see more on this go to www.csm.org.uk)



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Mitt Romney or Barack Obama?

Two men with the same agenda. They want to be president of what is still the most powerful country on earth.

Neither will admit the other has any good ideas. Both offer themselves as the hope that will 'save America'. Both have thousands of cheering supporters.

Whilst we don't do it quite the same way here we still get politicians promising much and never praising their opponents.



On the face of it there is not much Christian humility or love in the political process. We know, too, that no politician or political party has all the answers or can truly solve human problems.

Yet we do need Christians in that arena. And we should be praying for the Christians who do put themselves forward for election. That they might be able to walk a non-compromised path and yet do what it



takes to get selected and elected. If you know someone who is doing this - even if you don't like the party they are members of - offer to pray regularly for them. They probably don't agree with everything their party is doing but they have to commit to a party or their is no chance of election in reality.

If you sense a call by God to the 'ministry of public office' make sure you are being prayed for. Let us know so that the Training for Guys brotherhood is praying too!

This week's podcast is Colossians 1:24 to 2:5

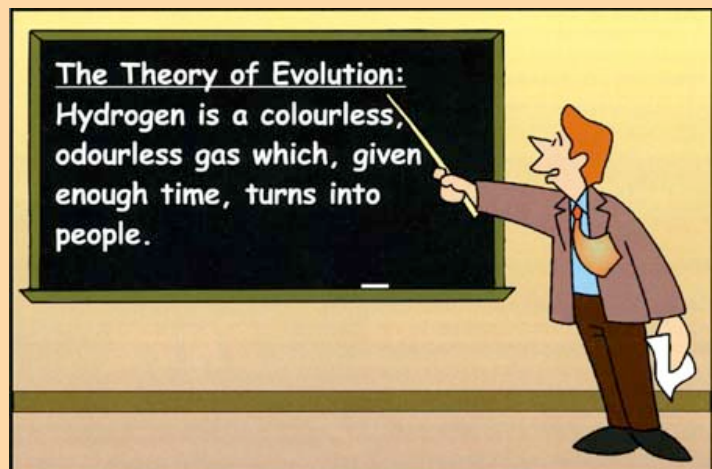
I love the verse that says Jesus is our hope of glory. One day, when all this is over, we will stand before Him in glory and understand the fulness of life He has prepared for us.

The reading goes on to say that the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Him too.

We don't have to wait till glory to receive this, we can enjoy this treasure now!

www.tfgministries.org.uk/podcasts

A little girl asked her father, 'do all fairy tales begin with "Once upon a time"?'
The father replied, 'No, some begin with - If I am elected.'



If you'd like your question featured in these pages email geoff.lumley@tfgministries.org.uk or post the question on the Facebook page

To join the Facebook Group you need to be invited by a friend who is a member... if no-one has invited you link with me on Facebook ([facebook.com/geoff.lumley](https://www.facebook.com/geoff.lumley)) and I'll add you in.

Comments on this week's thoughts or any other issue also welcome on the Facebook page. Let's grow our support for each other together. The best comments and ideas will be compiled into a permanent help area on www.tfgministries.org.uk

This week... spend more time with Jesus, serve more people for Jesus, and live the Kingdom!

Be blessed