

## Lesson 7 – Creation and Evolution

Where we came from is an issue where we disagree with the world but also with other believers. Many Christians argue that God *used* evolution. In this lesson, we will focus on what the Bible actually says and why it can't be made to fit with billions of years.

### Is Genesis Literal?

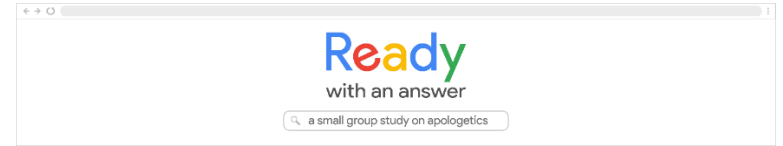
For many years those who wanted billions of years necessary in Genesis 1-2 did so through the gap theory or the day-age theory, now they argue that Genesis 1 doesn't want you to take it literally.

What \_\_\_\_\_ of story is Genesis 1?

- Is Genesis poetry?
- Is Genesis myth?
- Is Genesis history?

Are there \_\_\_\_\_ different accounts of creation?

Some argue that Genesis 1 is meant to be taken differently because it sounds so different from chapter 2. This ignores the way Hebrew works – often repeating itself with slight variations to give a different perspective. But this view also assumes that Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 are both creation accounts, when it is more likely that Genesis 1 is giving us the creation of the world whereas Genesis 2 is sharing with us how man came to be in the garden of Eden.



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### Is Genesis written as an \_\_\_\_\_ on pagan beliefs?

Many ancient cultures have stories of how we got here, and some notice parallels between these stories and Genesis 1. They then argue that Genesis 1 isn't meant to be taken literally, but instead was written to undermine these stories. The problem is that ancient peoples really believed their creation stories! Beyond that, similarities between the two are a result of the pagan distortion of the truth, rather than a biblical writer distorting a lie.

### Problems with a Figurative Interpretation

We've sought to respond to the arguments brought against a literal reading of Genesis 1-3. Now we'll look and see why it is necessary to hold to such a view and what happens if we don't.

#### Where did \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ come from?

When we discussed the problem of evil, part of our answer was that evil came from man's rebellion against God, but evolution requires disease, suffering, and death long before the fall.

#### Did \_\_\_\_\_ get it wrong?

Paul assumes a literal Adam in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 as he is arguing for our salvation in Christ, the second Adam. Arguing that there never was a historical Adam would destroy his argument.

#### God's Word Is Written for \_\_\_\_\_ People in \_\_\_\_\_ Times

Studying this complex lesson should raise the question: "If these new ideas are all correct, what about those poor idiots who died before the last 100 years when we supposedly figured all this out?" God's Word is designed to be understood by everyone, and you can understand it by simply reading it.

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