

Old-Earth or Evolutionary Creation?: Discussing Origins with Reasons to Believe and BioLogos

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How Did God Create the World?

Christians confess that God created the heavens and the earth. But how did he do it, and does the Bible give us a scientifically accurate account? In *Old-Earth or Evolutionary Creation?*, representatives from Reasons to Believe and BioLogos engage in charitable dialogue on questions of creation and evolution. Instead of providing a traditional “two-views” approach, this book helps lay readers identify science-and-faith issues and appreciate how they and the church can benefit from the conversation. As a result, *Old-Earth or Evolutionary Creation?* leads to opportunities for all Christians to present sound reasons and evidence for the Christian faith to believers and unbelievers.

Old-Earth or Evolutionary Creation? is the second book in the BioLogos Books on Science and Christianity series, a partnership between BioLogos and IVP Academic. The books in this series address a range of topics on science and faith for Christian audiences, from nonspecialists to scholars in the field.

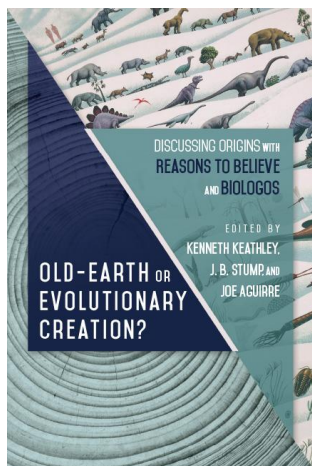
Moderated by Southern Baptist seminary professors, the discussions in this book touch on many of the pressing debates in science and faith.

Introduction: How Did We Get Here?

1. Boundaries: What Views Define Your Organization?
2. Biblical Interpretation: What Is the Nature of Biblical Authority?
3. The Original Couple: What Are the Range of Viable Positions Concerning Adam and Eve?
4. Death, Predation, and Suffering: Is “Natural Evil” Evil?
5. Divine Action: How Does God Interact with the Natural World?
6. The Scientific Method: Methodological Naturalism or Natural Theology?
7. Biological Evolution: What Is It? Does It Explain Life’s History?
8. The Geological Evidence: What Is the Natural History of the Earth and the Origin of Life?
9. The Fossil Evidence: Who Were the Hominids?
10. The Biological Evidence: Does Genetics Point to Common Descent?
11. The Anthropological Evidence: How Are Humans Unique?

Conclusion: What Is the Next Step?

Bibliography



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“A Significant Step Forward for both the Faith Community and the Academy”

“Old-Earth or Evolutionary Creation?, edited by Kenneth Keathley, J. B. Stump, and Joe Aguirre, is the result of an ‘unprecedented project’ that brings together ‘three groups who disagree about key points of science and theology but share a love for Jesus.’ The book is particularly successful because of the world-class minds who deliver a refreshingly objective and scholarly overview of science and faith issues that have been so divisive in the church and the academy. The essays and interviews clearly communicate theological and scientific points of divergence and coherence while providing a relevant and carefully researched resource for anyone interested in the study of origins. As a university president and a person of orthodox Christian belief, I see this publication as a significant step forward for both the faith community and the academy.”

— **Carlos Campo**, president of Ashland University

“Origins, particularly human origins, continues to be a controversial issue among evangelical Protestants. In *Old-Earth or Evolutionary Creation?*, the organizations BioLogos and Reasons to Believe model a respectful interchange of ideas in spite of their significant differences. The result is an intelligent and illuminating discussion of this crucial and timely topic.”

— **Tremper Longman III**, Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies, Westmont College

“This book has cultural significance that extends far beyond the origins debate. Here, Christians with deep disagreements chose to worship together, laboring for several years to understand and love each other. In a society marked by angry divisions, the hard work of reconciliation chronicled in this book is rare, beautiful, and an example for us all to follow.”

— **S. Joshua Swamidass**, assistant professor of laboratory and genomic medicine, Washington University in Saint Louis

“Given the vastness of the literature and the breadth of scientific and theological background necessary to understand the arguments, it is perhaps inevitable that Christians sometimes misconstrue how other believers reconcile science and faith. In her conclusion to this book, Debora Haarsma effectively summarizes its uniqueness: ‘Participants asked questions out of a genuine desire to learn the views of others, not to trip them up. People stated their disagreements clearly, but without animosity and grandstanding.’ With Southern Baptist seminary professors (young earth creation) acting as moderators and audience, representatives of Reasons to Believe (old earth creation) and BioLogos (evolutionary creation) cordially discuss why they think their models are both scientifically valid and compatible with conservative Christian theology. The book addresses many important

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ENDORSEMENTS

issues, including inerrancy, the image of God, Adam and Eve, the question of evil, the age of the earth, and common descent, with a number of well-known authors, both scientists and theologians, each addressing their specialties. This book is valuable, not for its contribution to knowledge, as all the ideas have been published elsewhere, but for its contribution to understanding, providing an example of constructive dialogue on the vital issue of how we relate to the rest of creation and God.”

– **Gerald Rau**, author of *Mapping the Origins Debate*

“This conversation is definitely worth listening to! The book is deeply satisfying, with knowledgeable and articulate advocates of differing positions expounding on areas of disagreement clearly as well as respectfully. At the same time, it is deeply unsatisfying, but in a good way: I found my own assumptions challenged, my horizons stretched. I think differently after reading it. An excellent job by all participants, moderators included.”

– **C. John “Jack” Collins**, professor of Old Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis