

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (*When Do We Start to Believe God?*)

The Bible begins with GOD and His creation work. The “Hall of Faith” chapter (Hebrews 11) in essence begins with faith in recognizing God as Creator.

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV)

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

There are lots of people who claim to believe in God, who claim to believe in Jesus and the Gospel, and yet they don't really believe Genesis 1 and the creation story as God tells it. Some don't start to believe God until after the flood, rejecting the idea of a universal flood as told us in Genesis 6-8. Many people holding to some form of “theistic evolution” (there are various hybrids) reject the plain truths of Scripture from Genesis 1 through 11.

Many claiming to be Bible believers take the Bible somewhat normally/naturally from Genesis 12 on, but at the same time reject the FOUNDATION of Genesis 1-11 on which the rest of the superstructure of God's revelation builds. What irony! G. Campbell Morgan was correct when he said, “*The first chapter of Genesis is a battleground.*”

“Creationists who want to embrace evolution reject natural selection in favor of supernatural selection. Thus theistic evolution tries to ride two horses going in opposite directions. All true evolutionists reject theistic evolution, as do all true creationists. ... You cannot be an evolutionist and uphold Scripture. Nor can you be a theistic evolutionist and be consistent with God's Word.” – **Richard D. Emmons**

True GOD-HONORING faith begins at Genesis 1:1. Faith takes God at His Word and if one won't believe Him in the matter of origins it is questionable whether one really believes in Him at all. The whole of the Bible ties to the “Creation Theme” (cf. Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11). Jesus tied “*the beginning of creation*” to the creation of Adam and Eve (cf. Mk. 10:6). Thus, to reject a literal Genesis 1 is to also reject the testimony of Jesus. Theistic evolution places death prior to Adam and Eve contradicting the truth of Romans 5:12 which says, “through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men”. Theistic evolution is forced to take the creation account in a symbolic way, but the rest of the Scripture takes it literally/normally (cf. Lk. 1:70, 11:50-51, Acts 3:21, etc.). The issue is this: Will we believe God or man?

The great battle is over whether to take the account of creation week literally and whether we take the time frame presented in Genesis literally. Can the earth really be that YOUNG? The answer is “YES!” The processes of creation week were unique, and God created things “wired” with the appearance of age.

The creation days of Genesis 1 are shown to be literal 24-hour days as seen in: 1) The terms “the evening and the morning” which commonly reference a 24-hour day; 2) When the word “day” is used with a number in the OT it always refers to a literal 24-hour day; 3) The rhythm of the days in the creation week correspond exactly to our weekly rhythm (cf. Ex. 20:9-11, 31:16). God did not work six “ages” and then rest one!

It is generally conceded that the time frame from Abraham to Christ was about 2000 years and that the time from Christ until the present is about another 2000 years. What is hotly contested

is the time frame from creation until Abraham. The genealogical lists in Genesis 5 and 11 when taken at face value present a time figure of about 2000 years. Some argue that there may be gaps represented in these lists but as Henry Morris said: *“If such gaps exist, however, they must be of relatively small magnitude; otherwise the lists become pointless and might as well have been omitted altogether.”*

James J.S. Johnson shows that whether or not the Genesis genealogies are “open” or “closed” the time frames given in Genesis are precise. There are “19 sequential links in this unbroken chain”, and allowing for the reality of “partial years”, the time from creation to Abraham was not less than 1948 years, and not more than 1985 years (read the complete article at... <http://www.icr.org/article/how-young-earth-applying-simple-math-data-provided/>). Thus, the earth is about 6000 years YOUNG! Can we believe God? He was the only ONE that was there! I take Him at His Word!

Hebrews 11 spells out the nature of faith – the kind of faith that pleases God (cf. Heb. 11:6). It is by faith that we understand *“that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”* (11:3). Abraham believed in God Who *“calls into being that which does not exist”* (cf. Rom. 4:17). It is only those who share in Abraham’s kind of faith that are truly his sons (cf. Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:7-9).

If we **believe** in the POWER of the fourth word of the Bible [God], we will have no problem with the fifth word [created]! The nature of a true saving faith, in harmony with Hebrews 11, shows up on the first page of the Bible. The object of saving faith is the Lord Jesus Christ but the nature of a true saving faith relates to the whole counsel of God. A true God-honoring faith aligns with Hebrews 11:3 which in turn aligns with Genesis 1.
