**Creation VS. Evolution – Can they Co-exist?**

* What is Evolution?
* Is adaptation a form of evolution?
* Do non-living forms evolve? (Does the earth evolve?)
* Can animals evolve?
* Does humankind evolve?
* What is creation?
* What is the purpose of the book of Genesis?
* Is Genesis literal or philosophical?
1. **CREATION:** “The action or process of bringing something into existence.”
2. **Genesis:** In order to better understand Genesis there are a few things that we need to realize about when and why the book was written.
	1. **When was the book of Genesis written?**
		1. It is widely believed that Genesis was written around 1445 B.C. we know that Moses wrote Genesis while the children of Israel wondered the desert for 40 years. There is scripture that backs this up (1 Kings 6:1)

 **“**and it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Isreal, in the month of Ziv….”

The fourth year of Solomon’s reign was about 966 B.C. so that puts the exodus around 1445 B.C.

* + 1. Why is the When important? In 1445 B.C. there was no scientific community, there was not widespread means to study physical or philosophical hypotheses; this directly would affect the style of writing we must consider was used in the book of Genesis. Additionally, most people during that time (both Jews and non-Jews) had some sort of believe that a god or many gods created the world by either accident or purposefully. Which then leads us to why Genesis was written.
	1. **Why was the book of Genesis written?**
		1. The book of Genesis is a snapshot for a nonscientific community describing how a LOVING God purposefully created the earth, all living creatures, and ultimately the “Very Good” creation of mankind. It’s primary purpose is to tell the world (during the time of Moses) how the one true God differs from other widely believed religions in the region. This book is not a scientific explanation on the individual aspects within creation.
1. **EVOLUTION:** The process by which different kinds of organisms are THOUGHT to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth. **2 parts of evolution:**
	1. **Micro-Evolution:**
		1. Micro-evolution is intended to describe the small-scale changes in populations. “Small changes over time in the same Organism”
		2. Examples of Micro evolution can be observed throughout the world. Probably best described by Darwin with his study on Finches- The Finch population changes beak sizes regularly in response to environmental pressures (hardships). However, the finch is still a finch. There are no major changes taking place that now make a finch another type of animal.
			1. **Do Humans experience Micro Evolution:**YES! There are several examples of micro-evolution within the human body.
				1. The loss of wisdom teeth. Now one in four people are missing at least one wisdom tooth. Foods have become softer to eat since we started cooking our meats thousands of years ago, triggering this micro-evolutionary trait.
				2. Drinking milk as adults - Drinking milk is one of the defining traits of mammals, but humans are the only species on Earth to digest it after infancy, though even now, [more than 75%](http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0100-879X2007001100004&lng=en&nrm=iso&tlng=en#Home) of the world's population is still lactose intolerant. a mutation that appeared on the plains of Hungary about 7,500 years ago allowed some humans to digest milk into adulthood.
2. **Macro-evolution:** Is used to describe the large-scale changes believed to be able to turn a blob of protoplasm into a person. “an alteration in an organism that gives rise to new species”
3. Why do Christians not believe in Micro or Macro-evolution? The biggest issue that most Christians have with Evolution is the believe that it conflicts with Genesis when the bible states:

“let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind” Genesis 1:11

“God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind…”Genesis 1:22

“Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind” Genesis 1:24

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27

* 1. First let’s tackle the issue of how Man was created in his image:
		1. Does God have a physical body (hands, feet, head, legs, ears, eyes…. Etc)? I believe that the apostle John says it best in:

**“24**God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

Since we know God is spirit, then if we were created in the image of God, that means we were created with a spirit like God. Our physical shells, which was created from dirt, does not define who we are. So, if the physical form changes does that change our spiritual form which was created in the likeness of God? NO!

* 1. Now lets tackle the issue of creating everything after its “kind”
		1. Some people believe that the definition of “kind” is equivalent to our current definition of “species”. However, as we stated before, Genesis is not a scientific article, it is a broad painting to explain how God created all living creatures. There is no specific animal classification except for those on earth, those in the air and those in the sea. In fact later the bible then includes a fourth classification as those that are domesticated.
1. Does the earth Evolve? I believe this is a much easier question to answer: we know that mountain ranges are constantly changing. Earthquakes create great rifts in the earths surface. Rivers transform hundreds of miles of the country side. These are all forms of an evolving earth in both micro and macro proportions.
2. Does the bible give examples of evolution? Yes!
	1. Genesis 3 explains how all living creatures, and the earth have been changed from its original creation due to the introduction of SIN.