

ANSWERING PROGRESSIVE CREATION (1)

A. _____ (physicist) & several others are involved in presenting a seminar called “Lord, I Believe”.

1. Evidence for special design in creation, which requires a designer.
2. Evidence showing the impossibility of evolution.
3. Historical accuracy of the Bible.
4. Evidences for the resurrection of Jesus.

B. **But also** in these seminars he recommended the works of Hugh Ross (“Creation & Time”) & Davis Young (“Christianity & The Age Of The Earth”).

1. These men are “Progressive Creationists.”

2. They don’t believe in evolution, & they claim to believe the Bible, yet they teach that the earth has been around for 4.5 billions years & the universe for about 15-17 billion years.

3. Mr. Ross has a PhD in astronomy, & he has worked to promote the “Big Bang” theory in denomination churches & schools.

4. He used to have a television program on the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

I. FOUNDATION: PROGRESSIVE CREATIONISM

A. **There are** several points that serve as the foundation of this theory.

1. God created the universe 15-17 billion years ago using a Big Bang (cosmic explosion).

2. Creation, in its present state, took billions of years to accomplish.
3. The Geological Timetable accurately portrays the formation of life.
4. God acted at different time periods to change life on earth.
5. Death & bloodshed have existed from the beginning of creation.
6. Man was created – in God’s image – after the vast majority of earth’s history of life & death had taken place.
7. Adam’s sin resulted in spiritual death but it had nothing to do with physical death.
8. The flood of Noah was local, not global, although it did kill all humans outside the ark.

II. KEY TACTIC: PROGRESSIVE CREATIONISTS

A. “The age of the earth is a trivial doctrinal point.”

1. They claim the important thing is that God is the Creator not when or how He created.
2. They claim you can accept the long ages of their theory & still accept the Bible as God’s accurate revelation of the facts.
3. They are also concerned about how they are viewed by other scientists.

B. But is the issue really trivial?

1. Can God communicate to us completely & accurately? Can we understand His word alike? If not, then how can we trust what the Bible says about salvation?

III. DUAL REVELATION (NATURE & SCRIPTURE)

A. **Progressive Creationists** frequently call nature the “sixty-seventh book” of the Bible.

1. Nature is equal to God’s word; one is neither “inferior nor superior” to the other.

That idea is simply not true!

B. **The fact is**, we can learn about God from nature, but there are limits to what it can teach us.

1. We can discover God’s eternal power & Godhead (**Rom 1:20**).
2. But we cannot understand man’s spirit & soul, the nature of sin, & man’s need for the salvation God offers (**Jn 3:16; Rom 1:16**).

3. David made the proper distinction between nature & divine revelation (**Psalm 19**).

C. **There are many problems** with elevating nature to the point of Scripture.

1. Nature is subject to man’s interpretation, the holy word of God is not.
2. Man is limited in his ability to know the ancient past with certainty.
3. The fall of man & the flood have altered the original state & perfection of God’s creation.
4. Humans are sinful, finite creatures with an inclination to believe lies (**1 Jn 5:19; Jn 8:44**).

[Our understanding of the universe will always be fallible & incomplete. **And** yet, we should not disregard good science that validates God’s revelation.

IV. YOM (AGE OR DAY)

A. **Most** Progressive Creationists teach the “day-age” theory.

1. Others teach that God spoke on six days, but then He took millions of years to create.

B. **The Hebrew word** for “day” is used in different ways in the OT, so we must examine the context to understand its meaning.

1. The word “day” (*yom*) is precisely defined when it is first used (**Gen 1:5, 14; Exo 20:8-11**).

- a. Used with a number.
- b. Used in contrast to “years”.
- c. Combined with “evening & morning”.
- d. Used literally in the Decalogue.

V. DAYS CANNOT BE AGES NOR GAPS BETWEEN DAYS

A. **The days** are in the wrong order to be ages.

1. Bible: plant life, 3rd day – land creatures & all creeping things, 6th day.

- a. The plant life would have become extinct before the insects came along for pollination.
- b. But they say that insects were not made on day six.

2. Bible: plant life, 3rd day – sun, 4th day.

- a. There can be no plant life without the nurturing affects of the sun’s rays.
- b. But they say the earth was covered by a thick cloud to trap light & moisture.

3. Bible: birds, 5th day – land creatures & all creeping things, 6th day.

- a. They say that reptiles are not mentioned.
- b. Why do they say that? Because the Geological time table shows reptiles living before birds.
- c. Biblical facts are altered or ignored in order to fit or support their theory.

2. They have God designing a world of suffering, & yet calling it “very good.”

3. If that’s true, then what was the point of the curse? Adam’s sin was the cause & the beginning of suffering upon the earth.

Gen 3:17-19 – Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, & have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: **Cursed is the ground** for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns & thistles it shall bring forth for you, & you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In **the sweat of your face** you shall eat bread **till you return to the ground**, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, & to dust you shall return.”

VI. GOD’S CREATION WAS “VERY GOOD”

A. **Progressive Creationists** teach that the world was already a difficult place to live when man was created.

1. There was already blood, sweat, & tears because there were weeds, disease, pestilence, extinction & death.

B. **Before man sinned**, man & animals were eating only plants, & God declared this to be “very good”.

Gen 1:29-31 – And God said, “See, **I have given you every herb** that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, & every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, **to every beast** of the earth, to **every bird** of the air, & **to everything that creeps** on the earth, in which there is life, **I have given every green herb for food**”; & it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, & indeed it was very good. So the evening & the morning were the sixth day.”

1. Progressive Creationists, *those who accept long ages*, believe that God always intended man & animals to be carnivorous.
2. But the Bible reveals that not until after the Flood did man begin to kill & eat animals, at which time the animals became afraid of man.

Gen 9:2-3 – And *the fear of you & the dread of you* shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, & on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. ***Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you.*** I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.

VII. THERE GAPS IN THE GENEALOGIES

A. **Progressive Creationists** sometimes fall back on this weak argument to make their case.

1. The main debate is over the 20 generations from Abraham to Adam.

2. Jude 14 eliminates the first 7, telling us that Enoch was 7 generations from Adam.

- a. This leaves only 13 generations to make their argument.

3. But gaps in the chronology of Genesis 5 (Adam to Noah) & 11 (Shem to Abraham) are not probable since the father's age was given when his descendant was born.

- a. This information is meaningless & irrelevant unless an accurate chronology was intended.

VIII. JESUS' ANSWER TO PROGRESSIVE CREATIONISM

A. The beginning of the creation was marked by the making & placement of Adam & Eve on the earth.

Mark 10:2-9 – The Pharisees came & asked Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” testing Him. 3 & He answered & said to them, “What did Moses command you?” 4 They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, & to dismiss her.” 5 And Jesus answered & said to them, “Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. 6 But **from the beginning of the creation, God made them male & female.** 7 For this reason a man shall leave his father & mother & be joined to his wife, 8 & the two shall become one flesh; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

B. The foundation of the world was marked by the death of Abel the prophet.

Luke 11:49-51 – Therefore the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets & apostles, & some of them they will kill & persecute,’ that **the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah** who perished between the altar & the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.

C. Jesus believed the books of Moses to be the word of God or Scripture that cannot be broken.

John 5:45-46 – Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

John 10:34-36 – Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, ‘You are gods’”? **If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)**, do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified & sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

D. We must learn to have the same trusting faith in what we read in our Bibles.

Heb 11:1-3 – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. **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.