

Pastor's Corner– 11-18-2017

Book Review: *In Six Days – why 50 scientists choose to believe in creation.*

A friend of mine recently posted this book as a recommendation on his Facebook page. Most of the time when Adventists discuss evidence of a recent creation our focus is on what the Bible has to say about the topic. This, of course, makes sense. We are “people of the book” afterall. Unfortunately, a Biblical justification for a recent creation doesn’t carry much weight in a world that is exceedingly skeptical of such things. Even among Christians there are those that prefer the naturalistic explanation for life on Earth and choose to reinterpret scripture to match the views of “science.”

That’s why I was so interested to pick up this book. It contains short articles from fifty scientists from varying fields, all of whom have at least one PhD. The articles are all based on a question that was posed by the book’s editor, “Why do you believe in a literal six-day Biblical creation as the origin of life on earth?”

Each respondent answered the question from their own perspective and professional background. What follows is a very interesting line of testimonies from scientifically minded people who have no trouble accepting a recent creation. I should point out that while these scientists appear to all be Christians (including some Adventists that you probably know) their reasons for believing in a recent creation are scientific and not religious.

I’m about half way through the book but there are several common themes that are beginning to develop which I would like to briefly share.

First, science, true science, requires observation, hypothesis, and experimental validation. It is an approach to understanding the universe that looks for evidence and is willing to follow the evidence wherever it leads. Scientists who loudly and proudly proclaim naturalistic evolution aren’t practicing science when they study origins. This is because they cannot observe (without a time machine) creation or evolution taking place. They will also begin with an assumption about the age of the earth and the evolution of life and force the evidence to fit that assumption. When new evidence arises that might suggest a young earth it is rejected immediately because... well, just because.

Second, evolution by natural selection made a lot of sense in the late 1800’s before we really understood how complex life really is. But now we know that even the most simple forms of self-replicating life are impossibly complex. Thousands of factors have

to be just right in order for life to happen. This complexity implies design and a designer.

Third, there’s simply not enough time, even at 3.5 billion years, for the diversity of life we see on earth to have evolved. Remember, natural selection requires an organism to have a genetic mutation that gives the new organism a competitive advantage over what came before. Today we know that almost all genetic mutations are destructive or damaging in some way. That means that natural selection will have to throw out thousands or millions of failed mutations before it comes across one that is beneficial. Ask an evolutionist why we don’t see the process happening today and they will likely tell you that evolution is too slow for us to observe. But if it’s so slow that means it would take even more time to develop complex life. Mathematicians have looked at these numbers and concluded that the odds against the most basic forms of life evolving through random chance are beyond astronomical. How do evolutionists get around this? By waving their hands and muttering, “deep time.” And if that doesn’t work, we can just say we’re part of a vast multiverse. I suppose, given enough time and an infinite number of do’overs the impossible becomes probable.

Or, we can accept the more straightforward explanation of the evidence, that there is a creator God and that he performed his act of creation a relatively short time ago.

I strongly encourage anyone interested in the issue of origins to pick up this book. Some of the articles are very easy to read, others, not so much. But the combined weight of these testimonies will be sure to strengthen your faith in our Creator. You can pick it up from Amazon for about \$15.

Happy Sabbath
Pastor Tyler