SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY

PT. 2

Creation and Evolution
SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU?

➤ Does Orthodox Christianity believe in creationism?
➤ Does Orthodox Christianity reject creationism?
➤ Does Orthodox Christianity believe in evolution?
➤ Does Orthodox Christianity reject evolution?
➤ Do you personally believe in creationism
➤ Do you personally believe in evolution?
INTRODUCTION

➤ Earliest Creation Stories
  ➤ Creation Ex Nihlo - creation out of nothing
➤ What is evolution?
➤ Creation of the Cosmos the world
➤ Creation of Man - The Why of creation - The image of God
EARLIEST IDEAS OF CREATION

➤ Hellenist view

➤ Plato

➤ Believed that created out of matter but the matter was created from a creator

➤ Judaism/Christian View

➤ Believed created out of Nothing

➤ 2 Macabees 7

➤ “I beg you, child, to look at the heavens and the earth and see all that is in them; then you will know that God did not make them out of existing things.* In the same way humankind came into existence. Do not be afraid of this executioner, but be worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in the time of mercy I may receive you again with your brothers.”
CREATION OUT OF NOTHING

➤ Ex Nihilo

➤ God Creates out of nothing
➤ God does not create out of need
➤ God loves us for us, not for what we can do for him
➤ Pantheism
  ➤ Creation is an emanation of the divine, pours out himself into creation
➤ Analogy of an Artist
➤ Before Creation it was simply God
  ➤ Time and Creation begin at the same time
  ➤ I am who I am

In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1
WHAT IS EVOLUTION

- More individuals are produced each generation that can survive

- Phenotype - observable properties of creation
  - Phenotypic variation exists among individuals and the variations are heritable
  - Differences in the way we look
  - Variation can be inherited
  - Traits that can be inherited, those individuals better suited for the environment will survive
  - Differential fitness
  - When you have reproductive isolation that occurs new species will form
HISTORY OF CONFLICT

➤ Not developing theory to attack the church
  ➤ Simply explaining what was observable in nature

➤ Original reaction was mixed

➤ Late 1800’s
  ➤ European theologians began to accept evolution as an instrument of God
    ➤ Pope Leo
      ➤ Modern Re-evaluation of biblical interpretation
        ➤ Acceptance of human evolution except the evolution of the soul

➤ Main issue was with protestants and their literal interpretation of the Bible
CREATION OF THE COSMOS

➤ Creation of the Cosmos

➤  ◦ Stages of Creation

➤  ‣ Heavens and the Earth

➤ Creation of the invisible and visible

➤ Important Notes

➤ Genesis is not a science textbook

➤ The church is not a scientific organization

➤ Orthodoxy most definitely rejects creationism

➤ Orthodox discerns synergy in all stages of creation
6 STAGES OF CREATION

• Day 1
  ◦ God creates time and Heavens and Earth
  ◦ Holy Spirit hovering
  ‣ St. Basil says - it is the Holy Spirit brooding over the creation like a nest making sure it is perfect and ready
  ‣ Let there be light - not sun or moonlight since it was created 4th day
  • Fathers say the light of the Godhead

• Day 2
  ◦ Let there be a firmament
  ‣ Formless matter takes form

• Day 3
  ◦ Separation
  ‣ Dry land separated from the sea
  ‣ Let the earth bring forth
6 STAGES OF CREATION

➤ Day 4
   ➤ Creation of the Lights
      ➤ Sun/moon

➤ Day 5
   ➤ Creation of sea animals

➤ Day 6
   ➤ Creation of all other earth animals
   ➤ Let us make man in our image
      ➤ Direct Command
CREATION OF MAN - THE WHY OF CREATION - CREATED IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD

- Direct command of creation
  - The earth revolves around creation BUT the universe revolves around Man
- God breathes in Man
  - God does not do this for any creation
  - Breathing in the face of someone else is act of deep symbolism
    - Giving something of your own to another person
      - Priesthood
      - Baptism
- When God is breathing into man he not just doing it to him him life but giving of HIS own life
- Limitation of Evolution
  - The beginning of life itself
    - When man calls God
      - The breath of God in man
- The why of Creation
  - Being born in the image of Christ
The Glory of God is the Human being

- St. Ireneaus
The salvation of one person, made in the image of the divine image is more precious to God then 10,000 worlds and all they contain

-St. Zosima in the 6th century