

TWO MODEL APPROACH TO ORIGINS

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Basic Scientific Methodology

Observe
↓
Evaluate
↓
Theorize
↓
Test¹
↓
Repeat

Basic Cause & Effect

Most everyone is familiar with the very basic concept of cause and effect - for every effect there is an associated cause.

Cause ⇒ Effect

Obviously the cause of an effect can itself be the effect of a proceeding cause. In fact, the existence of all things can be accurately described as a complex web of cause and effect stretching both backward and forward in time. However, it is quite evident that the chain of cause and effect cannot continue *ad infinitum* into the past. One must eventually come to the primary cause of everything that followed.

Effect/Cause ⇒ Etc.
↻
Effect/Cause ⇒ Effect/Cause ⇒ Etc.
↻
"First Cause" ⇒ Effect/Cause ⇒ Effect/Cause ⇒ Etc.
↻
Effect/Cause ⇒ Effect/Cause ⇒ Etc.
↻
Effect/Cause ⇒ Etc.

There are really only two possible assumptions that anyone theorizing about this "First Cause" can make - it was either random or purposeful. From these two competing and contradictory possibilities arise the two basic models for explaining the origins of the universe, life, and ultimately humanity - Evolution and Creation.²

¹ Scientific theories (such as Evolution) should never be confused with scientific laws (such as Gravity and Thermodynamics). In order to establish a scientific law, a theory must be tested in such a way that failure of the test would indicate beyond a shadow of doubt that the theory is false. This is known as falsification.

² In regard to our consideration of origins, Creationism is basically synonymous with Theism, an assumption regarding the existence of one or more supernatural beings which caused things to come into existence. Belief systems specifically describing the character of and human interaction with these "gods" are called Religions.

The Two Models Contrasted

	<u>Evolutionary Theory</u>	<u>Biblical Creationist Theory</u>
Underlying Philosophy:	Atheistic Humanism	Biblical Theism
Basic Presupposition About Cause & Effect:	Matter is eternal and the “First Cause” was a <u>random</u> event.	God is eternal and the “First Cause” was a <u>purposeful</u> event.
Observation:	The same data is available to both groups of theorists. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fossil record• Written human history, including religious writings	The same data is available to both groups of theorists. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fossil record• Written human history, including religious writings
Evaluation & Theorization:	Supernatural explanations <u>are not</u> permitted.	Supernatural explanations <u>are</u> permitted.
Expectations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A gradual progression from simple to complex forms of life, with many transitional forms• Very old dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A wide range of distinct and complex forms of life from the start, with absolutely no transitional forms• Relatively young dates
Testing:	Both groups use similar testing methods.	Both groups use similar testing methods.
Falsification:	No satisfactory test has yet been constructed.	No satisfactory test has yet been constructed.
Summary:	Evolution is a matter of personal faith regarding the interpretation of available data.	Biblical Creationism is a matter of personal faith regarding the interpretation of available data.

Recommended Websites

<http://www.answersingenesis.org>

Answers In Genesis takes a “popular” approach to the issue of origins; i.e., they present it in the most simple terms possible so that pretty much everyone can understand it. They have tons of resources available for the common thinker on the subject of Creationism. They also run the Creation Museum, located in Petersburg, Kentucky, just north of Cincinnati, Ohio.

<http://www.icr.org>

The Institute for Creation Research is run by scientists, so you’ll find more complex information at their website. There are lots of good resources here, typically presented in a more “scholarly” fashion.

<http://www.intelligentdesign.org>

This is just one of many sites presented by folks from **The Discovery Institute**, an organization of scientists promoting the idea of *Intelligent Design*. They believe that the universe is just way too complex to have come into existence by accident and want to consider the possibility of there being some super intelligence responsible for this design, but to do so without making any official commitment as to who or what that intelligent designer was/is.

<http://creationwiki.org>

This site consists of a myriad of voluntary contributions on the subject of Creationism. Please cautiously consider its contents, just as you would Wikipedia.