

TWO MODEL APPROACH TO ORIGINS

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Basic Scientific Methodology

Observe



Evaluate



Theorize



Test



Repeat

Basic Cause & Effect

Most everyone is familiar with the very basic concept of cause and effect.

Cause → Effect

Obviously, the effect of a cause can itself be the cause of another effect. In fact, the existence of all things can be described as a complex web of cause and effect spanning time. However, it seems evident that the chain of cause and effect cannot continue *ad infinitum* into the past. There must be a “First Cause” to everything that followed.

↗Cause → Effect/Cause → etc.

↗Cause → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → etc.

↗Cause → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → etc.

“First Cause” → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → etc.

↘Cause → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → etc.

↘Cause → Effect/Cause → Effect/Cause → etc.

↘Cause → Effect/Cause → etc.

There are 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 humanity – random Evolution and purposeful Creation.¹

¹ In the general consideration of origins, “Creationism” is basically synonymous with “Theism,” being delineated by assumptions regarding the existence of one or more supernatural creators, i.e., “gods.” Belief systems specifically describing the character of and human interaction with these “gods” are called “religions.” For our purposes, we will limit ourselves to the biblical information that lay at the foundation of the Judeo-Christian faith system.

The Two Models Contrasted

	<u>Evolutionary Theory</u>	<u>Bible Creationism</u>
Underlying Philosophy:	Atheistic Humanism	Biblical Theism
Basic Assumptions About Cause & Effect:	Matter is eternal and the “First Cause” was a <i>random</i> event	God is eternal and the “First Cause” was a <i>purposeful</i> event
Observations:	The same data is available to both groups of theorists • Fossil record • Written human history, including religious writings	The same data is available to both groups of theorists • Fossil record • Written human history, including religious writings
Evaluation & Theorization:	Supernatural explanations <i>are not</i> permitted	Supernatural explanations <i>are</i> permitted
Expectations:	• A gradual progression from simple to complex forms of life with many transitional forms • Very old dates	• A wide range of distinct and complex forms of life with no transitional forms • Relatively young dates
Testing:	Both groups use similar testing methods	Both groups use similar testing methods
Summary:	Evolution is a matter of personal faith regarding the interpretation of available data	Creationism is a matter of personal faith regarding the interpretation of available data

Recommended Online Resources

answersingenesis.org
icr.org
intelligentdesign.org

A popular biblical creationist website
A more in-depth science-based website
An intentionally non-religious, science-based website