WHO Believes What? Dr. Marcus Ross
I would like to personally thank you for watching the Origins television program. This show was special, near to the heart of my parents, Russ and Norma Bixler.

I trust that the information in this presentation will be helpful in your study of creation science. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Origins… you’re making the television production of this program possible!

Also available now a legacy website dedicated to my parents at russandnormabixler.com.

Paul R. Bixler
Producer/Editor
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

-Hebrews 11:1

Greetings and welcome to the Russ and Norma Bixler legacy website. Our family trusts that your visit today will provide strength, hope and encouragement to you.

RUSSANDNORMABIXLER.COM
To clarify the relationship between various origins positions so you know who believes what.
Creationism
Intelligent Design
Young-Earth creation
Old-Earth creation
Neo-creationism
Evolutionary creation
Some Bad Approaches

The Creation/Evolution Continuum

CREATION
- Flat Earthers
- Geocentrists
- Young Earth Creationists
- Old Earth Creationists
- Gap Creationism
- Day-Age Creationism
- Progressive Creationism
- Intelligent Design Creationism
- Evolutionary Creationists
- Theistic Evolutionist
- Materialist Evolutionist

EVOLUTION

Scott (1999)
More bad approaches...

- Fundamentalists

- Bible taken literally

- Young Earthers (4004 BC creation, Noah's flood at 2500 BC)
  - Old Earthers (gap theory, long days, etc.) but Noah's flood and creation story were real events
  - Progressive, constant minor special creations over geologic time but no evolution
  - First life as special creation, then guided evolution, then humans as special creation

- Bible not accepted as evidence

- Deity can control anything

- Science

- Theistic evolutionists
  - Only first life created then deity guided evolution to humans
  - First life was created then evolution was unguided

- Agnostics, atheists, secular humanists

- No deity

Wise (2001)
Three Difficulties

The problem of demarcation
- Science vs. Bible

Assumptions of uniform theology

“Literal” interpretation of Bible as classification method
Difficulties: Demarcation

- Assumes science/non-science distinction
- Non-science = Bible
  - “accept” and “reject” modern science
  - “Accommodate” science to Bible interpretation
  - ME is “nonreligious”
**Difficulties: Demarcation**

- If Bible is non-science:
  - Cannot guide research
  - Cannot provide hypotheses
  - Cannot be evaluated by science

- Historical counter-examples:
  - Linne
  - Paley
  - Newton
  - Steno
Difficulties: The “Literal” Criterion

• Term is subject to various interpretations
• Example:
  – The most “literal” member is Flat Earth
  – OEC and YEC claim Flat Earth interpretation is nonliteral:
    • Flat Earth ignores style and context
    • Point out contradictory scripture
• Move Flat Earth down scale?
Literal” fails as a criterion
Depends on agreement on what is “literal”
No such agreement
ID categorized as a form of OEC

- Other types of Christian positions represented
  - YEC: Paul Nelson, John Mark Reynolds
  - TE: Michael Behe
ID categorized as a Christian position

- Non-Christians included in ID
  - Jewish: David Berlinski
  - Neo-Platonist: Michael Denton
- Atheists/Agnostics
- Raelians
• Philosophical pitfalls must be avoided
  – Science/Non-science demarcation
  – Single-character divisions
• Rely on more robust methods
  – Multiple characters
  – Definition-based
  – Nested hierarchy
The Character Set

The Universe and Life: Atelic or Telic
The Character Set

Design/Teleos: Undetectable or Detectable
The Character Set

The Nature of the Designer:
Corporeal or Non-corporeal
The Character Set

The Nature of the Designer:
Transcendent or non-Transcendent of the Universe
The Character Set

The Nature of the Designer:
Theistic or non-Theistic
The Character Set

Biological History:
Discontinuous or Continuous
The Character Set

Age of the Earth:
Old (4.5 BYA) or Young (~6 KYA)
# Character Matrix

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<th>POSITION</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
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<th>D</th>
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</table>
The Nested Hierarchy of Design

- Materialist Evolution
- "Weak" DE
- "Weak" TE
- Raelianism, Panperma
- Neo-Platonist
- "Strong" DE
- "Strong" TE
- OEC
- YEC

- Undetectable
- Noncorporeal
- Transcendant Source
- Theistic
- Discontinuous (Special Creation)

- Organization to Life
- Design (Teleos)
- Detectable (ID)
Teleology-
Design in Nature

Detectable via Science

- Ex nihilo creation of different “kinds” of life
- Common ancestry among all life forms
- Theistic Evolution / Evolutionary Creation

Undetectable

- ID-style Theistic Creation

Age of Earth

- Young-Earth Creation
- Old-Earth Creation
A position that asserts recognition and empirical detectability of real design in the abiotic and/or biotic universe.

**Defining Terms**

**Intelligent Design**
A position that asserts recognition and detectability of real design in the abiotic and biotic universe by a transcendent, Theistic Being who designed discontinuous biological complexity approximately 6,000-10,000 years ago.

Defining Terms

Young-Earth Creationism
Conclusions

• ID and YEC are very different concepts
• Limited, but important points of agreement
  – Detectability of design
Conclusions

- ID is philosophically minimalistic
- YEC is highly specific in philosophical and theological claims
With Thanks to:

Andre Ariew, URI

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David Fastovsky, URI

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WHO Believes What?