

How can we evaluate the various theories of origins?

There are many different views of how this world came into being and how all of the animals came into existence. While some explicitly take God out of the equation, there are several versions that keep God as a figure in the operation of the origin event.

1. What are the major views of origins?

Evolution – Big bang started everything. Life from non-life. All life from one – Psalm 14:1; **100:3**

Theistic Evolution – God used evolution – Isaiah **42:8**

Gap Theory – Millions of years between Genesis 1:1, 2. Recreation event – Genesis **1:1-2**

Day Age Theory – Days of Genesis 1 are aeons of time – 2 Peter **3:8**

Progressive Creation – Days of Genesis 1 associated with God's recreation – Deuteronomy **9:14**

Special creation – God created universe in 6 literal day periods – Exodus **20:11**

These are the major views. There are several variations of many of these views.

2. What do we know about science that can help us to evaluate?

John **3:12**

Genesis **1:11-12, 24:25**

The scientific method is based upon what we can see, hear, taste, feel, with our senses. It is about what we can actually prove and demonstrate rather than what we can speculate and philosophize about. We need to consider which view of origins more closely aligns with what we actually observe today. For example, we know that animals and plants always give “birth” to animals and plants that are of the same type or “kind. There has never been any living entity that gives “birth” to a living entity of a completely different “kind”. Those views that rely on unverifiable speculation and that require events to take place that are in contradiction to what is known to take place should be questioned.

3. What do we know about the scriptures that can help us to evaluate?

John 17:17

2 Peter **1:20-21**

The scriptures are truth because they come from God. Although men wrote the scriptures, they did not write them from their own thoughts and imaginations. In some way, God guided and directed the thoughts of men so that what they wrote down accurately corresponded to what God desired to communicate with mankind. Those views that are in clear contradiction with the scriptures need to be highly questioned.

4. What do we know about God to help us to evaluate?

Job **38:4**

Psalms **19:1-3**; 104:5

Isaiah 42:8; 51:13

Titus **1:2**

Two characteristics of God that need to be considered. God was there when the origin event took place. Since He was there, He, at a minimum, observed what took place. God, by His nature and character, cannot lie. God would never communicate a lie to anybody nor deceive anybody.

Furthermore, God desires to ensure that all of mankind knows that He does exist and that He will evaluate all of mankind. Those views that operate on God allowing another entity to be identified as taking His place in the origin event should be highly questioned.

5. What do we know about man to help us to evaluate?

Jeremiah **17:9**

Proverbs **3:5-6**

1 Corinthians 2:14

Since the heart of man is deceitful and wicked, it is important the man does not rely upon his own intellect in order to understand what he sees in the world around him. The need for man is to place his trust in the infallible and Holy God rather than fallen man who does not know everything.