

Creation: God Makes

Question and Answer

- The question is: if you're a parent trying to prepare your kids, how do you prepare them for, whether high school, or college, or whatever the case may be, hardcore, atheistic, naturalistic evolution? The first thing I would do, I would really do some work teaching them about naturalism. There's a guy named Johnson who does quite a bit of work on this, but ultimately, when you look at the issue of naturalism, it starts with these presumptions, like the world is a closed system, everything is according to order in law, and there is no one and nothing beyond the physical world, and there is no way to know anything apart from the scientific method. Well, those are a number of presumptions. Those are a number of assumptions, right? That's the beginning of a worldview paradigm. And so naturalism, literally, it's life under the sun. So in Ecclesiastes, he talks a lot about, it's a great philosophical book of the Old Testament, he talks about life under the sun, and life under the sun is not seeing anything regarding God. All right, naturalistic atheism is just a view of life under the sun that refuses, it puts literally blinders on, and refuses to look up, and even consider the possibility of God. The other thing that I would say is, if you look at the history of atheism, it does not build flourishing societies. It doesn't bring forth life. It doesn't value human life. It doesn't pursue justice. We'll get into this in the next talk, but the outcome of atheism is a brutal way of life, where we start to act like animals instead of God's image bearers. And so our daughter's getting ready to graduate here with her master's degree from the Barrett Honors College in ASU, and she loves the Lord, and we talked about this a lot when she was a kid, and pretty much every class, something is just literally hammering against the worldview of the Bible, but she now sees that the Christian view of reality is the only one that actually makes any sense. Because we all feel like something went wrong. Well, that's 'cause something went wrong, right? We all feel like there's something greater than us, because there's someone greater than us. We all hope when we die, there's more, because we were made for more. And so my thing would be, I would not teach my kids to die on secondary hills, but to focus on primary hills. So with my kids, I tell them, "Look, you can believe the earth is old or young, but you need to know that God created the heavens and the earth, and God made man and woman in his image and likeness." That's closed handed. God made everything. How old is it? That is an open issue. It's not a hill I'm gonna die on. Okay. The six days being literal days, I tell my kids I believe those are literal six days, but ultimately, the primary issue is, did God create the heavens and the earth, and did God create you? And this is a secondary issue. So I wanna distinguish that, because sometimes what Christian parents do, in an effort to protect their children, they sort of bundle it all up, and you either accept atheistic, evolutionary naturalism that is godless, or the earth is 6,000 years old, and scientists are all liars, right? And I don't want that kind of polarizing set of options. It is possible to be a scientist. It is possible to be open-handed on secondary issues, and still say by faith we know that God created the heavens and the earth, that everything that was made, was made by the God who is independent and spiritual, and he makes that which is physical and dependent upon him. and we are part of his creation, and all of creation must give an account to its creator. Those are the big themes that start to get us moving towards salvation, incarnation of Jesus, death, burial, resurrection, eternal life, right? The new beginning. I want to focus on those areas. And so again, I think it's good to have these discussions with your kids. I think it's good to. There are now two in the world of intelligent design and fine tuning arguments. There are whole documentaries that have been done. There are a lot of teaching aids that are available. And when my kids were younger, we watched a lot of

those, and look at the fine tuning argument, and the fact that we're knit together in our mother's womb, like Psalms says, and let some of the experts from the world of biology or physiology or geography that do love the Lord start to worship God with all their mind, and teach us some things about the beauty of the Creator from the creation. And so for those of you who are parents, don't be afraid of these things. Delve into these things, research these things, study these things, have these conversations. And if you don't know the answer, it's really good to just practice humility and tell the kids, "That's a really good question. I don't know. I'm gonna go figure that out and get back to you," because it teaches the kids that we don't know everything, but if we're humble, we can learn. Yeah, so you're asking the question about other universes, and the possibility of the dynamics for human life existing, and alternate planets, or solar systems, or whatever the case may be. I'll tell you, number one, I went to public school, so this is about as much as I can do, but I'm a Bible teacher, okay, and so for me, what the Bible does, it shows, think of it like a movie. How many of you have done Google Earth, right? How many of you have tried that? It's kind of fascinating. I remember when it first came out, here's the Earth. Wow. That's amazing. I get to see the whole earth. Okay. I wanna find my house. You put it in, and then it just continues to focus in, and then you're like, "Oh my gosh, I'm on Google Earth." You know, there I am. It's amazing. The Bible is like that. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and then, in a land of promise, he made a man and a woman. It focuses very quickly. We're only a few pages into the Bible, and the Bible doesn't start up here, and then go beyond. It starts here and focuses in. Now it is totally fine, well, and good to postulate and consider, and run the numbers, and experiment and explore. But the truth is, we don't know, because we've not been there, and in addition, the Bible doesn't have really anything to say. It's primarily focused on a man and a woman named Adam and Eve, and everybody who descends from them, and all the problems that we have brought into God's good creation, and it ultimately focuses not even on the nation of Israel, but ultimately on the Person of Jesus. And so the Bible literally, Google Earth, in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and it gets us all the way down to human life, and that it focuses us in on the Person and work of Jesus. So I would say as a Christian, that's where my focus is, 'cause that's where God tells me to focus. Is there possibility of other universes? There could be. It doesn't say. Is there the possibility of human life in other universes? It is possible, but we'll get into this when we get into the fall. I believe some of what is called alien visitation or life from other planets could be demonic. It could be beings not from another solar system, but from another reality, that they're entering in from the invisible realm, and they are masquerading as beings to be worshiped, to be adored, to be pursued, to be obeyed, and sometimes when the reports of the aliens, and if you've seen those shows on the History Channel, or whatever it is, on "Ancient Aliens," everybody on there should be drug tested. That's just my thought on the show. I mean, they think we're crazy. I'm like, "Wow, that's amazing." But they will give an indication that if these things exist, they seem to defy the laws of gravity, that their crafts can shift and move at speeds, and that they defy what we know is the reality of physics in our universe. So then some speculate, "Well, they must be from another realm." Well, if they exist, and I'm open to that possibility but I'm not certain of it, could it not be demonic powers, principalities, and spirits, that we really are seeing life, but it's not alien life. It's demonic life. Oh, dinosaurs. Everybody wants to know about dinosaurs. We love dinosaurs. If you've watched "Jurassic Park," you're like, "They're real." Okay. So... Some will say that the Bible does refer to the possibility of dinosaurs. There's a section in the book of Job, that it talks about kind of this sea creature, Leviathan, and they would say, "Well, that could refer to that kind of being." Others will say that certain reptiles will grow over time. And so if the

conditions are right, before the flood happens, and life on the earth is long, you could have these creatures growing to be quite large. Others would say they existed, but then something called the flood happened, and they didn't make it. And that's why the dinosaurs died out. The thing of dinosaurs is, in my research and study, we have very few fossil forms, and then we tend to reconstruct and recreate the possibility of a whole magnificent beast from just a small sample size of a couple of bones. And so I think a lot of this could be speculative, but in my position, and my position meaning I'm not gonna die for it. I won't even let you throw a cotton ball at me for it. That's how committed. I'll die for the resurrection of Jesus. You could throw a cotton ball at me for my view of creation, okay? My view of creation, though, is that if life is indefinite and long on the earth, plants and animal life, and then in six actual, literal days, God prepared the world that he had created, he brought it from nothing, he sought it for humanity in six days, and then created the man and the woman. It could be that animals lived, maybe even became extinct, before God prepared the world for human life, and created the first man and woman. So that would be my cause in case. Those who say the earth is very young, they have a harder time explaining dinosaurs, right? They'll say, "Well, they didn't make it on the ark." So they, you know. Rock, paper, scissors, sink. They didn't make it. So those would be your options. Again, the Bible doesn't talk a lot about, or anything really, about other universes, or possibility thereof. It doesn't say a whole lot about animal life, 'cause God's focus is on human life. God's priority is human life.