

Different Alternatives of Creationism

| | Basic Argument | Age of Earth | Flood | Strengths | Weakness |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|--|--|
| Day – Age | The six days of creation in Genesis does not refer to the 24-hour days that we are accustomed to think about. Six time periods were really epochs lasting thousands, if not millions of years | Old Earth | Probably Local | Harmonizes a literal interpretation of Genesis 1 with the scientific account of Creation | Appears to be a semantic word game and it may distort the original meaning of the Text |
| Gap | Reconciles Genesis 1 with the fossil record by proposing that there was a gap in the time between a first act of Creation, when God created matter and life, and a second act of Creation, described in Genesis as the six days of Creation | Old Earth | Probably Local | It provides a means of reconciling Genesis with science | Achieves the reconciliation by proposing a second, additional creation that is not mentioned directly anywhere in the Bible |
| Creation Science | Holds that God created exactly as described in Genesis 1, in six 24-hour days. Holds that humans and all other biological organisms were created just as they appear today | Young Earth | Universal | Provides a consistent, straight-forward interpretation of Genesis 1 | Presents itself as a legitimate scientific theory, yet it fails as science because it provides no empirical evidence or testable hypotheses. Also, the arithmetic of the amount of water at the flood doesn't add up |

Based on Ronald L. Numbers, *The Creationists, The Evolution of Scientific Creationism* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: The University of California Press, 1992).

Different Alternatives of Theistic Evolution

| | Basic Argument | Strengths | Weakness |
|---|--|--|--|
| God guides the evolution process, perhaps at the quantum level | Accepts the theory and basic processes of evolution, as described by biology. However, it asserts that God guides the evolutionary process and thus the emergence and development of biological life here on Earth | God could be actively engaged in creation by guiding the evolutionary process | It is impossible to empirically verify this theory |
| God guides the evolution process through the laws of nature | God essentially front-loaded the world as we know it, by structuring the physical laws and processes so that they would naturally unfold in the way that they have through evolution; think of setting of dominoes to fall in a particular pattern | God is actively engaged in creation by setting up the initial conditions and laws of nature so that the evolutionary process unfolds as God intended | It is impossible to empirically verify this theory |

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