

# **ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CONFERENCE**

## **Topical Bulletin, March 2021**

News and weather broadcasts regularly mention what they term “climate change” and subsequently proceed to declare as “fact” what has changed over millions or billions of years— since they are folks who believe in evolution. Sadly, there are a number of professed “Christians” who accept some sort of evolution! On the other hand, true Christians believe what the Holy Bible teaches, for sincere Christians know, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Therefore, in this month’s topical bulletin we will take a close look at the following subject: **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)**

*Comment:* In Genesis 1:1 the term “beginning” is a translation of the Hebrew word “reshiyth” meaning the very beginning, the first. The term “God” is a translation of the Hebrew word “Elohiym” which is a masculine plural noun meaning God. The term “created” is a translation of the Hebrew word “bara” meaning created as in made from nothing. The fact that the term “God” is a plural noun in the Hebrew is an indication that the true God is plural in Persons, the Triune God. This truth is also evident in Genesis 1:26, where we read, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” Thus, the true God who created the heaven and earth is the Triune God, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” (1 John 5:7) “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19) Note well: three distinct Persons, yet one divine essence.

The only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, IS the WORD. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1-3, 14)**

*Comment:* Notice that the Word made all things in the beginning. Accordingly, God’s only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, is Creator. Indeed, in reference to Christ, Colossians 1:16-17 reports, “by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

**“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” (1 Corinthians 8:6)**

*Comment:* Observe that the foregoing Bible verse teaches God the Father is Creator, and the Lord Jesus Christ is Creator as well.

**“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” (Psalm 33:6)**

*Comment:* A look at the original Hebrew indicates that the term “breath” also means “spirit”; consequently, the Holy Spirit – God the Holy Ghost – is also Creator, as well as the Word of the LORD. The term “LORD” in all capital letters is a translation of the Hebrew word “Yehovah” (Jehovah), which means “the existing one true God”. Thus, the Triune God is the true God who created the heaven and the earth out-of-nothing. Yes, it’s plainly evident: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” (Genesis 1:1-3) Hence, the Holy Spirit was present, God the Father who spoke was present, and the Word spoken was present, for the three Persons are but the one true God who created heaven and earth! “Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.” (Jeremiah 32:17) Thus, evolution is a lie of the devil, who Holy Writ reports, “abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44)

**“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Hebrews 11:3)**

*Comment:* The foregoing Scripture verse makes it crystal clear that evolution is NOT how the worlds – the stars, planets, etc. – came into being. Rather, God made the worlds by His Word out-of-nothing! But, notice that only people with faith in Christ actually know the truth that God created all things, while unbelievers reject God’s Word and accept the devil’s lies.

EVOLUTIONISTS CAN BE DIVIDED INTO TWO CAMPS: 1) THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE EVOLUTIONARY MODEL PUT FORTH AS FACT BY PEOPLE WHO BOAST THEY ARE SCIENTISTS; AND, 2) THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES THEISTIC EVOLUTIONISTS.

Theistic evolutionists basically hold that God created crude materials billions of years ago, leaving such materials in a chaotic mass; then, God ceased working and simply let the evolutionary process take over and run its course. Theistic evolutionists commonly teach that the six-days of creation mentioned in Genesis chapter one refer to six time periods of millions or billions of years during which things evolved into that which we see today. The entire premise of theistic evolutionists is totally wrong and displays their ignorance of Holy Scripture, and their rejection of the same. Consider the following Bible passages:

**“For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” (Exodus 20:11)**

**“It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.” (Exodus 31:17)**

*Comment:* Observe the fact that six days is the actual time-frame in which the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them. Furthermore, look at Genesis chapter one, and notice in verses 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, & 31 the phrase “**and the evening and the morning**” followed by the word “**day**”. Therefore, it is without question a normal 24-hour day which is referred to for each day of the six days of creation! Theistic evolution is at odds with the Holy Bible and at odds with the vast majority of the “scientific community” as well.

And what about those who believe in the evolutionary model put forth as fact by people who boast they are scientists? What about the common belief in evolution taught in public schools and touted by the news-media and the like? It too is dead wrong! So-called science-based evolutionists can never explain how the originating material came into being— the originating material from which they say all things evolved. For instance, they say their so-called big-bang resulted in the dispersal of the originating material and caused the evolutionary practice to begin; and yet, they do not and cannot explain how that originating material was present in the first place, or what caused the big-bang. Thus, the so-called science-based evolutionists “science” is unscientific because it is NOT based on observable facts. Hence, it’s no wonder that the apostle Paul by inspiration of God warned the young pastor Timothy, and thereby warns us, **“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.” (1 Timothy 6:20-21)**

GOD CREATED ALL THINGS IN A LOGICAL AND ORDERLY MANNER, AS WE SHALL SEE FROM THE GENESIS ACCOUNT. (Comments will be kept brief so as not to exceed the scope of this topical bulletin.)

**“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2)**

*Comment:* God created the entire universe out of nothing, simply calling it into being by His Word. The earth was at first formless, dark, and void while its base elements were present yet evidently mingled until God separated them and arranged them in order.

**“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.” (Genesis 1:3-5)**

*Comment:* God created elemental light before He concentrated the light into the celestial bodies. Time began as God separated light from darkness, instituting and establishing night and day. Thus ended day one.

**“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.” (Genesis 1:6-8)**

*Comment:* On day two, God created the visible vault we know as the sky and the first heaven (not to be confused with the highest heaven). Waters under the sky were separated from waters above it— waters which later gushed forth and covered the entire earth during Noah’s day when the deluge took place. “In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.” (Genesis 7:11-12)

**“And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.” (Genesis 1:9-13)**

*Comment:* No longer were the solids and liquids mixed, for God gathered the waters into seas, and the dry land appeared. Then, notice that God called forth plant-life from the earth, establishing seed bearing plants which could multiply. Thus ended day three.

**“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.” (Genesis 1:14-19)**

*Comment:* On day four, God created the illuminated heavenly bodies – the sun, moon, and stars – into which He separated and concentrated most of the light He had previously created on day one. Observe that the sun provides daylight while the moon supplies light at night with the stars, the movements of those bodies determining days, seasons, and years.

**“And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.” (Genesis 1:20-23)**

*Comment:* God by His omnipotent Word brought forth from the waters the various moving creatures of the water, such as fish, eels, sea lions, whales and so forth. Also, the fowls of the air were created most likely from the water mixed with earth from the bottom of the sea, for Genesis 2:19 reports, “And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.” God also gave the creatures the ability to multiply and blessed them in that ability— after their own kind (no weird mixed critters). Note that none of the creatures were self-creative; rather GOD DID THE CREATING! Evolution is a lie of the devil! Thus ended day five.

**“And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them**

**have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:24-31)**

*Comment:* On day six, God created both the beasts of the earth – the land animals – and, as the crown of His creative work, man— male and female. Further details regarding the creation of man are supplied in Genesis chapter two, where we read, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (Genesis 2:7) Man has a soul, the animals do not have a soul. Man was given rule, dominion, over all the other creatures. God provided man with food to sustain his body. ALL was very good, for sin was NOT in the world at that time. Notice that before man’s creation, God consulted with Himself, the Holy Trinity, and then proceeded to make man in God’s own image, that being: holiness, righteousness, and wise knowledge. Consider the following proof passages regarding the image of God: “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24) “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.” (Colossians 3:10) Accordingly, man is NOT simply a higher form of animal as the evolutionists imagine and teach (although the evolutionists by their beliefs are showing a definite lack of wise knowledge, and frequently behave like – or worse than – animals).

Another danger of evolution is that it has led some people to think one race of people is superior to another due to how each evolved, which has caused all sorts of racial problems in society. However, the Holy Bible plainly states in regard to human beings: “And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.” (Genesis 3:20) “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.” (Acts 17:24-26) Thus, ALL human beings are of one blood, descended from Adam and Eve, our first parents! Yes, regardless of skin-color or race, we humans are all related.

Let us hold fast to the truth, **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)** God grant that we continue to believe ALL of His Holy Word, never compromising or denying any doctrine of Holy Scripture.

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