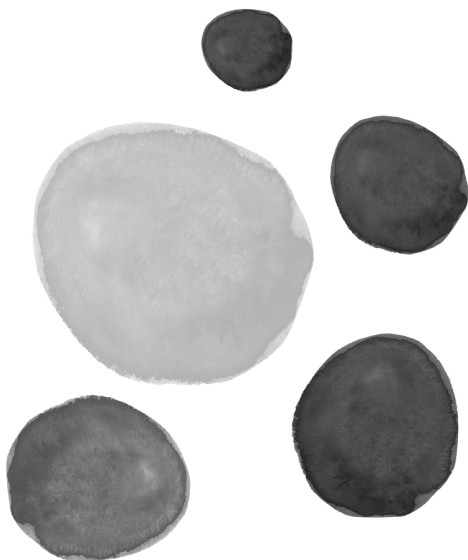


QUICK THEOLOGY

Five Views of Creation



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Introduction

In this book we're going to look at creation theories: Theories about how God created the world. Most Christians know that in Genesis 1 and 2 there is a depiction of the creation story. But within Christianity, there are a variety of views on how God went about creation and how science and the Bible can be reconciled—or, to put it more aptly, how God used science to create the world. We're going to look at four views on this topic.

Many of you are likely familiar with Young-Earth creationism, popular in evangelical circles. I will, of course, cover that theory, but I will also share a few other viewpoints you may not be as familiar with. I'll point out the strengths and weaknesses of each view, and I'll point to the standard of reason and church history as part of the equation as well.

When it comes to creation theories, I've noticed

Christians tend to attach a lot of emotion to the viewpoint they hold. Sometimes this is because we were raised with that view and questioning it feels like breaking apart faith itself. But challenging our viewpoint doesn't necessarily require walking away from our whole worldview, contrary to what we see in deconversion culture. In deconversion, we assume asking questions will inevitably lead to us walking away from the faith. But that is definitely not the case! A strong Christian faith is comfortable asking questions, digging into other viewpoints, thinking critically, looking at the facts, and seeing what aligns with Scripture. I'm a Christian today because I've seen how reason, logic, and history align with the truths of Scripture. Knowing this we will come away from our questions with an even stronger faith than before. By thinking critically we're forced to be honest about what we believe and to understand not only the questions that we have, but also the questions that skeptics—even skeptics who are fellow Christians—are asking.

Another reason we get emotional about creation theories is because we think too much is riding on the topic. We may believe the trustworthiness of the Bible is at risk if we engage with a different creation theory, or in some cases maybe we believe science is at risk if

we engage with a different view. I'd really challenge you, however, to think critically through each of the theories that we'll look at in this short book.