

Life on Earth - Two Faiths - 12

We saw last time how the highly imaginative Babylonian creation myth spoke of noisy gods being killed, other gods taking revenge, who then use the two halves of a dead god as raw material for creation, and then two gods helping each other to create mankind from clay mixed with the blood of another rebel god who had been killed!

Moses, who was known to be “learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians” - Acts 7:22. would likely be aware of the Egyptian creation mythology, which was just as fanciful as the Babylonian myths. If Genesis were simply a human production, then it is reasonable to expect that creation would undoubtedly have been described in similar nonsensical stories in that book. Left to himself, man would have known nothing different at that time.

But the Genesis account of creation is totally different from these childish stories. In chapter 1 there is a logical series of creative acts which, while not presented as a scientific account, does not run counter to any scientific findings. The first three days are days of preparation of the environment. First, general light, then a suitable atmosphere, then seas, land and vegetation. After that, the sun and moon appear in the sky, then birds are created for the sky and marine life for the sea. Finally, on the sixth day, animals are created for the land, and then man himself.

The Genesis account of creation cannot be compared with the fairy tale character of the pagan myths concerning the origin of life on earth. The description by Moses of the successive stages of Creation corresponds with the concepts of the current viewpoint of science. This being the case, the source of the information as supplied in the narrative of Genesis, and which is confirmed by science, can only come from revelation and not a human writer's imagination.

So it is in accordance with reason to have confidence in this Genesis record of creation. Just how the directives of God, i.e., “God said, Let there be...” were accomplished we are not informed. But this presents no obstacle to believing it. As we have clearly seen, scientists themselves have struggled to conceive the mechanism of an evolutionary process that could produce life. This fact alone shows that proponents of evolution are in no position to ridicule those who believe in creation by the power of God. In fact the believer is on much firmer ground. The Bible says:

“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” - Hebrews 11:3. This is not the blind faith of the evolutionist in his theories - a faith which, in the face of the contrary evidence amounts to irrational credulity. This is a faith which is based on a reasoned and a painstaking study of this divine revelation which induces absolute confidence in its message. This faith is also confirmed by all the facts of science, as distinct from scientific theory. The believing scientist finds nothing in the laws of nature that is incompatible with his belief in God as the Creator.

For example, the famous astronomer, Sir James Jeans, wrote, “A scientific study of the universe has suggested a conclusion which may be summed up in the statement that the universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician”. Then he continued: "Everything points with overwhelming force to a definite creation, or series of events of creation at some time, or times not infinitely remote...The universe cannot have originated by chance” - Sir James Jeans, *The Mysterious Universe*, Cambridge University Press, p. 140.