

HOW TO ADDRESS BIBLICAL DIFFICULTIES - Part I

Reference: miscellaneous Scripture

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Bible difficulties are apparent problems found in the biblical record. Those difficulties are called “errors, mistakes, and difficulties in understanding certain biblical passages, discrepancies and sometimes contradictions.”

In this multi-part message we’re discussing ten fundamental principles that might help us to better understand the difficulties found in Scripture.

ONE - The unexplained is not necessarily _____. There is a difference between something that is “_____” and something that is “_____”.

TWO - Flawed _____ of Scripture doesn’t mean that Scripture is flawed.

Three important questions we must all answer:

Question: _____ did we get here? (the question of origins)

Question: _____ are we and _____ are we doing here?

Question: _____ do we go after here?

From time to time we have addressed all three questions at length but for this message let’s just examine the first question. There are three possible responses to the question about origins: How did we get here and in a more generic sense how did this universe and all there is in the universe get here?

- _____
Definition: Special creation argues that this universe and all that is in it (including humans) has resulted from an unconditional _____.

Reference: **Genesis 1:1, 2:4; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 38:4; Psalm 100:3, 121:2; Isaiah 37:16, 66:2; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16 and Revelation 4:11** (see screen)

There’s a sometimes associated concept that is called _____ abbreviated (**ID**).

Definition: Intelligent design argues that the universe is best explained through an _____ and not an undirected naturalistic process.

- _____
Definition: The strictest definition of materialistic evolution states that this universe and all that is in it (including humans) has evolved through natural processes _____ the assistance of a creator being (God).

The naturalistic evolutionary **equation** is:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{_____} \times \text{_____} \times \text{_____} \\ + \text{_____} = \text{everything!} \end{array}$$

- _____ or evolutionary creationism
Definition: Theistic (theistic from theism meaning God) evolution argues that God started this universe and used the _____ of _____ to create all that is in.

Theistic evolution presents numerous theological problems. One example is that theistic evolutionists argue that Adam and Eve were just figurative characters that represented humans but weren’t the actual historical first man and woman. But to interpret the Genesis account of Adam and Eve in a non-literal non-historical sense has serious implications for different New Testament readings and Christian doctrines.

In citing Jesus _____ records the gospel author Luke implied that Adam was a literal historical man.
Reference: **Luke 3:23-38** (see screen)

In mentioning the _____ and _____ martyrs from the Old Testament Jesus implied that Adam was a literal historical man.
Reference: **Luke 11:51** (see screen)

In describing _____ and its progression throughout the human race Paul implied that Adam was a literal historical man.
Reference: **Romans 5:12** (see screen)

In describing Jesus as the _____ and _____ Adam Paul implied that Adam was a literal historical man.
Reference: **I Corinthians 15:45, 47** (see screen)