

EXCURSUS: CREATION OF LIFE AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

I. Interpretation of Genesis 1

A. Hermeneutical Principles

B. Rival Interpretations

1. Literal Interpretation
 - a. Exposition and Support

- b. Critique

2. Gap Interpretation
 - a. Exposition and Support

- b. Critique

3. Day-Gap Interpretation
 - a. Exposition and Support

b. Critique

4. Day-Age Interpretation
 - a. Exposition and Support

b. Critique

5. Revelation-Day Interpretation
 - a. Exposition and Support

b. Critique

6. Literary Framework Interpretation
 - a. Exposition and Support

b. Critique

7. Functional Creation Interpretation
 - a. Exposition and Support

b. Critique

8. Theistic Myth Interpretation
a. Exposition and Support

b. Critique

C. Summary and Implications

1. Range of Biblical Interpretations

II. Concord with Evolutionary Biological Theories

A. Introduction

B. Compatibility of biblical theism with evolutionary biology

1. Random mutations

2. Methodological naturalism

C. Origin of life

D. Evolution of Biological Complexity

1. Scientific extrapolation

2. Distinguishing the different senses of “Evolution”

3. Common ancestry

4. Mechanisms of biological evolution

E. Theological Synthesis

1. Scientific Considerations

2. Theological Considerations

6. Putting it all together