

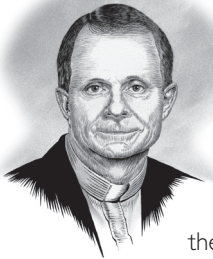
FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Can We Dismiss The Genesis Creation Story?

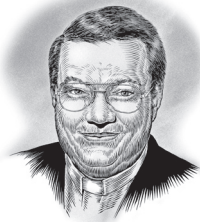
Know This...

The Book of Genesis has not one but two creation stories. We can't dismiss either one of them. The Church says we don't have to believe the literalist interpretation that God created the universe in six 24-hour days, but we must accept and believe the following. 1—God created the heavens, the earth, and all that exists out of nothing. 2—the “six days of creation” are meant to show the orderliness of God's approach to bringing everything into existence. 3—we all descend from one set of first parents. 4—God gave man (male & female) dominion over all earthly things.



John: God not only brought everything into existence, His will keeps it in existence. If God chose to stop willing the existence of any part of His creation it would fall back into the nothingness from which it came.

James: We can believe in a creation that took six 24-hour days or an evolutionary process that God causes and guides; but we cannot believe in an “atheistic” evolution where random forces alone brought things into existence.



John: We cannot dismiss Adam and Eve or their fall as fiction. At their creation, God infused a human soul into their bodies. Every human being has descended from them. Multiple sets of “first parents” would negate the Church's teaching of original sin.

James: In 1996, Pope John Paul II told the Pontifical Academy of Sciences that there is not one but many theories of evolution and some are contrary to Church teaching. The Church does not fear science. She knows that true science cannot contradict God or His creation.

Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Please visit: www.catholicchristians.com for more insight into the teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church.



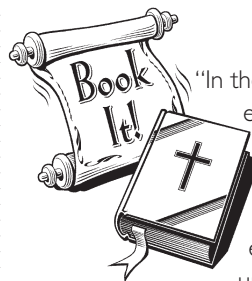
“[Jesus] was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Jn 1:2-5

“The Church, which has the mind of Christ, knows very well that we cannot tamper with the revelation of original sin without undermining the mystery of Christ.” (ccc 389) “Methodical research in all branches of knowledge, provided it is carried out in a truly scientific manner and does not override moral laws, can never conflict with the faith, because the things of the world and the things of faith derive from the same God.” ccc 159 quoting Vatican II “In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them, master them by labor, and enjoy their fruits.” ccc 2402



PAPA SAYS

“There can never, indeed, be any real discrepancy between the theologian and the physicist, as long as each confines himself within his own lines, and both are careful, as St. Augustine warns us, ‘not to make rash assertions, or to assert what is not known as known.’” Pope Leo XIII, *Providentissimus Deus*, 18, 1893 “The faithful cannot embrace that opinion that maintains... that Adam represents a certain number of first parents. Now, it is in no way apparent how such an opinion can be reconciled with that which the sources of revealed truth and the documents of the teaching authority of the Church proposed with regard to original sin, which proceeds from a sin actually committed by an individual Adam in which through generation is passed onto all and is in everyone as his own.” Pope Pius XII, *Humani Generis*, 37, 1950



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Gen 1:1 “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 birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’” Gen 1:26 “You have given [Man] rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under his feet.” Ps 8:7 “Every form of life, four-footed or winged, crawling or swimming, can be tamed, and has been tamed, by mankind.” Jas 3:7

God and Father of all creation, it is Your divine will that sustains everything You created. Not only did You give us life but You gave us dominion over all the things of this world. I pray in Jesus' name that I will live as a faithful steward of the things You have entrusted to me. Amen.

