

The background of the slide is a deep space photograph. It features a dark, black sky filled with numerous stars of varying colors and sizes. Several prominent stars have bright, multi-pointed diffraction patterns. In the center-right, there is a bright, glowing nebula with a blue and white hue. Below it, a faint, elongated galaxy is visible. The overall scene is a rich, multi-colored field of stars and cosmic structures.

# Science and the Bible

## Theistic Evolution

# Goals

- Who holds to it?
- Define the three Theistic Evolution views
- Analyze its exegetical support and problems
- Analyze its resolution of theological problems

# Who Holds To It?

- Many Evangelicals, both liberal and conservative
  - B. B. Warfield
  - Tim Keller
  - Howard VanTill
  - Ted Peters
  - Denis Lamoureaux
  - Alistair McGrath
- Many respected Christian colleges
  - Calvin College
  - Wheaton College

# Three Theistic Evolution Models

- Nonteleological Evolution: “No divine intervention of the supernatural after the formation of the universe.”
- Planned Evolution: “God had a definite *plan* in mind, which was set into motion at the moment of creation.”
- Directed Evolution: “God brought the universe into being and ... continues to act in it to bring about his plans.”

# Nonteleological Evolution

- Deism
- Claims
  - God created the cosmos
  - God had no further plans or intentions
  - Life developed, and species evolved, solely as a consequence of natural processes
  - Unplanned
  - Undirected

# Planned Evolution

- Francis Collins
- Augustine?
- Claims
  - God created the cosmos
  - God intended for life and humanity to develop
  - God built into the cosmos the natural laws and processes, and the initial conditions, necessary and sufficient to produce life and humans
  - No further divine involvement

# Directed Evolution

- Time Keller
- Claims
  - God created the cosmos
  - God intended for life and humanity to develop
  - God built into the cosmos the natural laws and processes, and the initial conditions, necessary to produce life and humans
  - God intervened to effect the process

# Exegetical Issues

- Conflicts with the scientific narrative
  - At least 30 (Mortenson)
  - Earth originally inundated
  - Formation of sun and stars on day 4
  - 24 hour days
- Genesis 1-3 are not *strictly* historical



# Exegetical Strategies

- Chronological
  - Strictly prosaic (young earth creationists)
  - Gap theory
  - Ideal-day theory
  - Day-age theory
  - Intermittent-day theory
- Logical
  - Framework theory
  - Topical pictures logically arranged
  - Polemical

# Modes of Divine Action

- A theological question for all views
- Primary vs. secondary causes
  - Primary: most fundamental
  - Secondary: God uses instruments, e.g. Satan
- Interventionist Divine Action
- Noninterventionist Divine Action: God uses the laws of nature without violating them
- Uniformitarian Divine Action: sets parameters

# Theological Issues

- Natural evil
- God's pronouncement that the creation was "good"
- What is a human?
- Was Adam historical?
- Was the Fall historical?
- The meaning of "sin"

# Theological Issues

- The extent of the curse:
  - “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” Romans 8:20-22
- Implications for redemption