

Restore Creation Doctrine! God Didn't Use Evolution

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Videos, eBooks, Articles, & New Books Defending Doctrine & Science of the Creation

"Upon hearing such carping insolence, my zeal could not be contained... I decided to appear openly in the theater of the world as a witness of the sober truth." (Galileo Galilei, [Dialogue](#))

*"O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! **When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.**" (2 Nephi 9:28)*

*"In the first place, I wish to go back to the beginning—to the morn of creation. There is the starting point for us to look to, in order to understand and be fully acquainted with the mind, purposes and decrees of the Great Eloheim, who sits in yonder heavens as he did at the creation of the world. It is necessary for us to have an understanding of God himself in the beginning. **If we start right, it is easy to go right all the time; but if we start wrong we may go wrong, and it will be a hard matter to get right.**" -Joseph Smith, King Follett Sermon*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has a several-hundred-year history of standing against evolution, but today some members call for a secularization of the church, including an acceptance of evolution as an explanation for the origin of man. Not only is human evolution scientifically impossible, it is theologically the opposite of the gospel of Jesus Christ. God did not use evolution!

When studying the evidence, it becomes clear that

- The flood of Noah was worldwide, just as the book says.
- Adam was the first man, and was a direct son of God (not a descendant of hominids).
- There was no death before the fall. Mankind did not evolve from a common ancestor with animals. God created various species in the beginning.
- God made the Earth in 7 days. An old Earth is a fabrication of men and is not in alignment with prophetic teachings or precise science. These may be 1000-year periods as suggested by several scriptures. The 1000:1 ratio of God's day is evident in Adam dying within a 1000-year period, in the day he ate the fruit.
- Prophets of the restoration have taught consistently for 200 years from Joseph Smith to the present against evolution.

CHURCH POSITION ON EVOLUTION

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints basing its belief on divine revelation, ancient and modern, proclaims man to be the direct and lineal offspring of Deity." (The Origin of Man, 1909 First Presidency)

Some anonymous essays which have recently appeared on church web pages which take an open approach to evolution include:

- Organic Evolution: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/topics/organic-evolution?lang=eng>
- 2016 New Era "What Does the Church Believe About Evolution?" <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2016/10/to-the-point/what-does-the-church-believe-about-evolution?lang=eng>

Surely multiple opinions among church members are allowed. While the above pages represent some of these views, they do not carry the same doctrinal weight as scripture or First Presidency statements.

Several signed First Presidency statements have been given to the saints::

- 1909 First Presidency Statement: The Origin of Man <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2002/02/the-origin-of-man?lang=eng>. The preface on this page describes the importance of this statement: *"In the early 1900s, questions concerning the Creation of the earth and the theories of evolution became the subject of much public discussion. In the midst of these controversies, the First Presidency issued the following in 1909, which expresses the Church's doctrinal position on these matters."*
- The 1925 First Presidency Statement echoes teachings from the 1909 statement, and is linked to in the Organic Evolution article at the following link: <https://archive.org/details/improvementera28011unse/page/1088/mode/2up>

When Elder Boyd K. Packer heard the claim that the church has no position on evolution, he responded: *"Twice the First Presidency has declared the position of the Church on organic evolution. The first, a statement published in 1909 entitled The Origin of Man was signed by Presidents Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder, and Anthon H. Lund. The other, entitled Mormon View of Evolution, signed by Presidents Heber J. Grant, Anthony W. Ivins, and Charles W. Nibley, was published in 1925. It follows very closely the first statement, indeed quotes directly from it." (Boyd K. Packer, The Law and the Light, Book of Mormon Symposium, BYU, 30 October 1988)*

Note that a certain 1910 statement exists which calls for openness to the possibility of human evolution, but this statement merely appeared in a church publication, and the author of it is unknown. This statement has been erroneously hailed by some as a First Presidency statement, when no evidence exists to support this claim.

Note that a certain 1931 statement exists about simply leaving questions of science to the scientists, but this statement has never been published by the church to the saints.

We can say with confidence that the most authoritative statements from leaders of the restored church have been against evolution theory, even though taking this view is not essential for church membership.

GOSPEL TEACHINGS AGAINST EVOLUTION

Scriptures and prophets of the restoration from Joseph Smith to the present have consistently taught messages about the creation which do not align with modern science claims. Some themes in these teachings include:

- No birth death before the fall of Adam & death entering the world as a consequence of sin. (Nephi 2:22; Romans 5:12-14; 8:21-22; 1 Cor. 15:21-22, 45)
- Adam is the physical, not just spiritual, offspring of God. (Luke 3:38)
- Adam as a real person, & Eden as a real place on this Earth.
- The Fall of Adam impacting the whole world, including plants and animals. (Gen. 3:17-20)
- God's direct involvement in the creation.
- Earth has a temporal lifespan of 7000 years (not billions). (D&C 77:6-7, 12)
- A creation of a shorter duration than is commonly advocated. Each day of creation probably as 1000-year periods because a day to God is 1000 years to man. (JST 2 Peter 3:8; Facs. 2 Fig. 1; Abr. 3:6-11)
- Adam was the first man and the first flesh on Earth. (D&C 84:16)
- Temporal and spiritual things should not be separated. (D&C 29:34)
- Nature proves the existence of God. (Ps. 19:1)
- Animals only reproduce after their kind. (Gen. 1; 6; 7; Moses 2)
- The flood of Noah was worldwide. (JST 2 Peter 3:5-7; Gen. 1:1-10; Abe. 1:24; Moses 8:3; Ether 2:1-3; 6:4)
- Adam and the patriarchs lived long lifespans, hundreds of years.
- The First Presidency statements of 1909 and 1925 declare man to be the "direct and lineal offspring of Deity" and that "It is held by some that Adam was not the first man upon this earth, and that the original human being was a development from lower orders of the animal creation. These, however, are the theories of men." (<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2002/02/the-origin-of-man?lang=eng>)

It is no wonder that President Benson taught, "the Book of Mormon exposes the enemies of Christ [and] confounds false doctrines." (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson [2014], 132).

If you'd like to explore the 100s of teachings of Latter-day prophets expounding on science-related doctrines and surrounding controversies, visit these quote collections compiled by the Joseph Smith Foundation: <https://josephsmithfoundation.org/faqs/category/science/>.

GOD DIDN'T USE EVOLUTION

There are many possibilities for how God carried out the creation. However, teachings of the restoration, and many voices in the science community have given us a more clear message on how the creation works.

We suggest a plain interpretation of scripture, that God created various life forms, and that God created man in His own image. As the 1909 and 1925 First Presidency statements say, man is the "direct" "lineal" "offspring" of God.

With God as creator, the mechanisms of evolution become redundant, and perhaps even cruel and wasteful. There are more inspired studies and doctrines on man's origin!

Sometimes popular theories are wrong, and trying to combine them with gospel teachings to help others can result in only short-term solutions.

Many questions can be raised about the plausibility of God using evolution. For example:

- Does God need that long to create? Jesus did many instantaneous miracles.
- Isn't evolution cruel? Did man's creation come from millions of years of death?
- Wasn't evolution made by atheists to avoid God?
- Doesn't evolution violate known laws of science like entropy and genetic limits?
- Why do we need evolution to explain man's origin if we know he was the "direct lineal offspring of God" (1909 First Presidency) and that Adam was a son of God (Luke 3:38)?
- How would man be a child of God if Adam's dad was a hominid?
- Doesn't evolution's old earth deny catastrophic / rapid / miraculous events like the flood of Noah?
- Evolution requires many scriptures to not be taken literally, including the order of creation described in multiple locations. Would God confuse us?
- Haven't prophets of the restoration taught against evolution for 200 years?

When we try to mesh worldly theories with divine revelations from God, we often get a confusing mess. The truth is much simpler when we place God at the center, and take his word seriously.