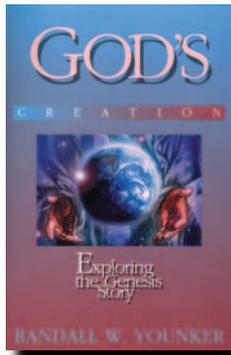




Recent Books

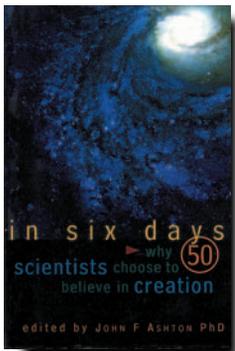


God's Creation

Randall W. Younker
Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1999
128 pp., \$8.99

Based on careful textual observations, Younker explores the biblical account of Creation along several topics. Some of these are the Creator, the days and the date of Creation, the alleged contradictions between Genesis 1 and 2,

the Fall's impact on Creation, the worldwide Flood, the argument from design, the Sabbath, and God's re-creation. Younker's aim is to establish a better understanding and a greater appreciation of the biblical account of Creation. He also strengthens the case for the historicity of Genesis 1-11, the text of origins. Younker is convinced that a denial of the historicity undermines the very essence of belief—God's character and His plan of salvation. He states, "I have found that there is plenty of positive evidence in both Scripture and nature that point to a loving Creator" (p. 20). To this *God's Creation* gives ample witness.

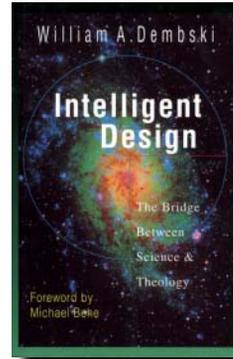


In Six Days

John F. Ashton, editor
New Holland Publishers (Australia), 1999
360 pp., \$14.95

"Can any scientist with a PhD believe in the idea of a literal six-day creation?" 50 selected scientists from around the world say "Yes" and explain the personal reasons for their belief in the biblical version of Cre-

ation as the origin of life on earth. They include university professors and researchers, geologists, zoologists, biologists, physicists, chemists, mathematicians, medical researchers and engineers. The straightforward essays are presented in two sections, depending on whether the question of evolution and creation is addressed from a scientific or a more philosophical perspective. The refreshing personal style of most contributions and their brevity, ranging from 2 to 20 pages, make this book an interesting as well as an entertaining read.



Intelligent Design

William A. Dembski
InterVarsity Press, 1999
312 pp., \$19.99

One of the leading proponents of the new intelligent-design movement argues brilliantly that intelligent design provides a crucial link between science and theology. Intelligent design is a strictly scientific theory without presup-

posing

a belief in God or the Bible. It "starts with the data of nature and from there argues to an intelligent cause responsible for the specified complexity in nature" (248). The book itself has three parts. The first part gives a historical backdrop on the intelligent discernment of design and the demise of British natural theology. In part two, the heart of the book, Dembski examines the philosophical and scientific basis for intelligent design. He outlines a well-defined methodology, the concept of "specified complexity"—without doubt Dembski's major contribution—which reliably detects design within nature. The last part shows how science and theology relate coherently and how intelligent design establishes the crucial link between the two. An appendix details Dembski's responses to common objections to design theory. In sum, *Intelligent Design* is a thought-provoking book which argues persuasively that, based on scientific empirical research, intelligent design provides greater explanatory power for the origins of life than the evolutionary hypothesis.



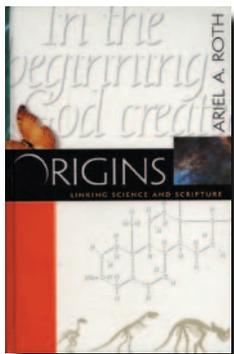
Not By Chance!

Lee Spetner
The Judaica Press, 1997
272 pp., \$14.95

Spetner believes that the scientific advancements in biology have made the popular evolutionary hypothesis untenable. He puts one of the basic pillars of this hypothesis, random mutations which are shaped by natural selection, under investigations. Based on

information theory, Spetner shows that "random variations cannot lead to the large-scale evolution claimed

by neo-Darwinians.” The often presented examples of mutations may only lead to small evolutionary changes but do not contribute to macroevolution. In turn, Spetner offers his own “nonrandom evolutionary hypothesis” which, for him, accounts well for scientific observations. “The main idea is that the capacity to adapt to a variety of environments is built into the organism” and the environment itself then influences what mutations can occur. This should explain why nonrandom variation could produce some large-scale evolution. Though the book is at times technical, it offers an interesting and challenging viewpoint on evolutionary randomness.

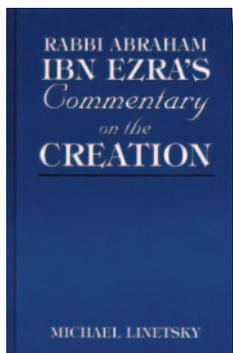


Origins

Ariel A. Roth
Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1998
384 pp., \$29.99

Is it impossible to link science and Scripture? This book “attempts to show that the dichotomy between science and Scripture is not what is often surmised and that a reasonable harmony exists between the two.” Roth is trying to present

the wider picture on the question of origins. Therefore he evaluates various interpretations of the origin—biological, paleontological, and geological interpretations—based on scientific data and on Scripture. In that process such topics as the evidence for evolution and creation, the Flood, the earth’s age, the strengths and limitations of the scientific method, and the reliability of Scripture are examined. Some chapters may be rather technical; however, tables, figures, summaries, and conclusions throughout the book will help any reader to better grasp the topics under discussion. Roth concludes that “when we consider the total picture, creation explains more than evolution does,” or to put it differently, “the biblical model of a recent creation by God leaves fewer unanswered questions.”

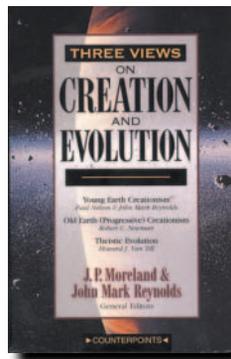


Rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra's Commentary on the Creation

Michael Linetsky, translator & editor
Jason Aronson Inc., 1998
155 pp., \$30.00

With this translation of Ibn Ezra’s commentary on Genesis 1-6, the insights on the Creation story of one of Judaism’s great thinkers can be studied firsthand. Rabbi Abraham ibn Ezra (born 1189) was one of the

outstanding scholars of the Middle Ages. Though well versed in many areas (poetry, grammar, philosophy etc.), it is as Bible commentator that Ibn Ezra enjoys enduring fame. His style of writing is extremely terse; at the same time it encompasses the major literary and scientific material works of his time. The numerous annotations by Linetsky are of great help in order to appreciate the thoughtfulness of Ibn Ezra’s comments, which are especially rich on Genesis 1-3 (ca. 100 pages). As the back cover states, “With this volume, readers of English have a key to unlock a vast treasure of knowledge previously closed to them.”



Three Views on Creation and Evolution

J. P. Moreland & John Mark Reynolds, editors
Zondervan Publishing House, 1999
296 pp., \$17.99

This book informs about three dominant schools of thought in the theological dialogue about creation and evolution: young earth or recent creationism,

old earth or progressive creationism, and theistic evolution or “the fully gifted creation.” Qualified proponents of these major positions each present their different views on creation/evolution, tell why the controversy matters, and describe the interplay between their understandings of science and theology. They end with a personal letter of advice to a hypothetical student confronted with and open to all three perspectives. Each view is then responded to and critiqued by four scholars from different academic disciplines (biblical studies/hermeneutics, theology, philosophy, and natural science), upon which the chosen representatives give their concluding feedback. Final reflections on the discussion are offered by scientist Richard H. Bube and law professor Phillip E. Johnson. Both the contributors to the book and the book’s organization guarantee a stimulating reading that will broaden the understanding of the central issues in the creation-evolution dialogue.