

Faith & Science CONFERENCE



MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF DEATH BEFORE SIN

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“The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world is beyond all decent contemplation. During the minute that it takes me to compose this sentence, thousands of animals are being eaten alive, many others are running for their lives, whimpering with fear, others are slowly being devoured from within by rasping parasites, thousands of all kinds are dying of starvation, thirst, and disease ...

... The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference.”

-Richard Dawkins



THEODICY QUESTIONS

- ▶ “Is this kind of God (God of evolution) morally consistent with the Bible’s story and its moral claims?”
- ▶ “Is this kind of God morally consistent with the morality of the God of the Bible?”
- ▶ “Is this kind of God morally consistent with what we know of Jesus?”



THEODICY QUESTIONS

- ▶ if God is all-good then he would not have created this way
- ▶ if God is all-powerful he need not have created this way
- ▶ if God is all-wise then he could have created in a different and superior or kinder manner.



THEISTIC EVOLUTIONARY RESPONSES

- ▶ Free Process defence
- ▶ No Other Way/ Greater Good Defence
- ▶ Kenosis Theory
- ▶ Appeal to Mystery
- ▶ Minimisation Strategy
- ▶ Creationism is absurd
- ▶ The *Tu Quoque* fallacy



COMPARING FOUR VIEWS

- ▶ Creationism
- ▶ Naturalistic Evolution
- ▶ Process Theism
- ▶ Theistic Evolution

	<i>Creator God</i>	<i>Creation Process</i>	<i>Product/Goal</i>
Special Creation	Morally perfect all-powerful God	No death, suffering, non-violent	'Image of God' (Moral) No death, suffering



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Theistic Evolution	Morally perfect all-powerful God	"Good" process of progress via death, suffering, predation, violence, pain	Morally good Humanity made in the 'Image of God' as climax of evolution



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