

A Lesson on “Evolution and Creation” at the 1962 Florida Christian College Lectures

In 1962, Earle H. West was invited to present some lectures during the Florida Christian College annual lecture program. In those days only outlines were published. In *Ancient Faith and Modern Gods*, a book compiled and edited by James R. Cope, president of the College, is a lesson by West on “Evolution and Creation.” I remember hearing this series of lessons and have always thought of them in a favorable way.

After presenting a historical survey of the evolution-creation controversy, West discussed facts and interpretation. He mentioned kinds of evolution which can be accepted by the creationist. We now refer to this as *micro*-evolution. Then he discussed Quantum Evolution (now called *macro*-evolution) which advocates “Major discontinuities in the paleography of the larger taxonomic groups. Here evolutionist and creationist part.” In the final part of his lecture, brother West discussed remaining problems for both the evolutionist and the creationist. Here is that part of his outline.

IV. Remaining Problems

A. For the evolutionist

1. A suitable mechanism for evolution, esp. quantum evolution.
2. Demonstration of adequate time for observed and theorized results.
3. Fitting rationality, conscience, aesthetics into mechanistic evolution.

B. For the creationist

1. Clearer understanding of "kinds" in Genesis 1.
2. Better understanding of “true” and “apparent” ages for things.
What limits are there for scientific methods of age determination?

3. What time gaps are in the Biblical record?

Within the genealogies?

Between creation of man and creation of woman?

Between the condition of world chaos and order?

Within the sequence of six creative days?

President Cope wrote no rejection of the material in the book he compiled and edited. I don't remember an “Open Letter” being written to the president of the college (James R. Cope) and the head of the Bible department (Homer Hailey) about that speech. Times have really changed haven't they brethren?

Some other men who participated in the 1962 program included Yater Tant, Robert Turner, Cecil Douthitt, Cecil Willis, B. Hall Davis, Dudley Ross Spears, Marshall Patton, Connie W. Adams, James P. Needham and Leslie E. Sloan. Brother West was given three days to present his lessons.

In my speech at the Florida College annual lectures, Feb. 8, 2000, I pointed out many of the same problems for the student of Genesis who rejects the evolutionary explanation and firmly believes in the divine creation of all things.