

What Drives the Anti-Science Movement

The only way the anti-gay movement can justify their prejudice is through creationism. Their belief that God created man and woman justifies their intolerance of anything that doesn't fit that template, and this goes back to beliefs.

There's no way we can know everything. Our minds are far too finite. So to cope with the uncertainty this creates, we generate beliefs about those things we don't know. These beliefs are built to orient us in this giant cacophony we call a Universe and to help us localize the infinite so that there's something we can call "real." We build our beliefs through a process of generalization, deletion, and distortion. We take the millions of bits of information coming at us every second, and generalize what we can and delete what we can't, which creates distortion. A song on the radio is a perfect example of this effect. The song is comprised of instruments such as drums, guitars, bass, keyboards, vocals and background vocals... it's then arranged, recorded, and mixed before it makes its way to our music device. However, all we hear is the song; a generalized sound.

So from the onset, our beliefs pose a problem. They're not built on reality. They're built upon their (the belief's) own perception of reality. Ironically, once a belief is in place, it then sets out to regulate our reality, filtering everything out that disagrees with it, and only letting in what supports it, even if this is a painful or destructive belief. As beliefs grow, they take up more space in our psyche and we forget that the Universe is happening despite our belief about it.

From the moment Charles Darwin published "Origin of the Species" in 1859, Christianity found itself struggling with and separating itself from biology. Darwin himself didn't come up with the Evolution, and he went to great lengths in his book to credit others who had said it before him, but like it or not, history calls him the "Father of Evolution," and this theory goes to the very heart of the series of beliefs Christianity was built on.

Creationism answered life's most difficult questions and did it in such a way as to prevent even more troubling questions: *why are we here, what is our purpose in life, why is there suffering, what happens after we die*, and ultimately, *how will it all end?*

First Question: "Why are we here?"

According to the first creation story in Genesis, God felt creative and so he spent a five-day-work-week creating our world and it's supporting Universe. On the sixth day, he crowned his new world with his greatest conception... the human being. (In some Christian mythologies it was the creation of man that prompted Lucifer's rebellion.) In the first creation story it was the human male, in the second creation story it was male and female. The story doesn't necessarily say WHY God created humankind, but it does say that God DID, and that's enough for most creationists. We're here, because God created us. This gives us our place in the Universe and establishes our purpose.

Second Question: What is our Purpose in Life?

This question is shakier as far as answers go, but it's still answered in the creation story. Once God was finished with his humans, he put them in a garden and gave them dominion over all the Earth. So "technically," our purpose is to serve God, to act as his surrogate on Earth, to be his "gardeners." Christian texts later inserted the notion that our sole purpose is to "worship and praise God." They didn't tell us how to do that per se, but that did give us a purpose and, equally as important, a connection to this thing called our Source.

Third Question: Why is there pain and suffering in the world?

Human suffering, and the reasons for it, is the most discussed topic on Earth and it's the only question that we'll openly debate with the parameters of God still in the framework. It's in all of our religious doctrines, it's in our newspapers, and it even shows up to varying degrees in our school textbooks. We're profoundly troubled by human suffering and that makes the creation story that much more powerful. God wanted to give humankind "Free Will." In order to do that, he put a tree in the middle of his Garden and called it the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He told Adam and Eve that of all the trees in the garden, this was the one tree from which they could not eat.

Naturally, if you tell a kid NOT to do something, that's the first thing they're going to do.

So Eve first, then Adam, disobeyed God's direct order, and were then ejected from the Garden. God told Eve that she would bear children in pain. God told Adam that the Earth would bear fruit but only by the sweat of his brow. Viola, we now know why there's pain and suffering. The Apostle Paul would develop his entire doctrine around this when he created Christianity.

Fourth Question: When will it all end?

This question requires knowledge of both New and Old Testaments. It also requires some insight into both Judaism and Christianity. Let's start with Judaism since it was their text in the first place. According to Judaic texts, what would become necessary for human salvation was complete compliance to all of God's laws. There are 613 Laws in the Torah, 365 negative, and 248 positive, and, according to the Jewish teachers, only when they were all obeyed by all of Israel, then God would restore Israel.

Christianity took this notion and created a new doctrine in the person of Jesus—or as Paul called him, the Christ. In the Pauline story, one man, Adam, sinned in the Garden of Eden and brought death to the entire world. God knew that there was no way any human was ever going to keep every jot and tittle of the Mosaic laws so he sent his son. Jesus embodied the law, and then became that sacrificial lamb and took on the full wrath of God and our punishment by dying for our sins. Now we are no longer bound to the law but we are forgiven through his Sacrifice.

Soon, Jesus will return and take all of those who accepted him as their savior, and it will all be over. Both the Hebrew scripture and the Christian scripture record this:

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
Revelation 21:4

And those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
Isaiah 35:10

We still don't have an official date for this unbridled bliss, but we're told it's close.

Fifth Question: What happens after we die?

In Christianity, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, and ascended into Heaven, but not before promising that he would come again, the same way he left; in the clouds. Only this time every eye would see him... including those that pierced him. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, his suffering, and his embodiment of all things good, we have hope of an eternal life of pure bliss in this place called Heaven. If we do not accept this sacrifice and become born again, then we will suffer torture and agony in a place called hell.

While this isn't a question, it's a perk, and it's another aspect that Christianity fully embraces and doesn't want to part with.

There will be revenge:

Hell is filled with people who hurt us, took things away from us, who did bad things to us. Hell is the place where the people we all hate go. This includes our Exes, our in-laws, that guy who cut us off on the freeway, Hitler, Mousseline, Stalin, Liberals, gay people, insurance agents, that little thing behind the counter at the grocery store...

From heaven, we will be able to look into the abyss of Hell and see those horrible people all suffering because they dissed us.

So our questions are answered. Yes, there is suffering, and pain, but it's because we deserve it, and thanks to Jesus we will soon see an end to all that suffering. We will soon find ourselves in a place where all nations will exist under one law, theirs, and there will be no divergence from that law.

This is especially comforting in the face of mankind's greatest threat, the environmental crises we now face. Climate Change isn't happening because God won't let it, but even if it was,

God will take them away from it all. God gave them dominion over the Earth; therefore it's their right to do with the Earth as they please.

How do we protect ourselves and our Earth from these beliefs?

That's the biggest challenge we face. We can't fight these beliefs with reason because they're fear-based. This isn't a logical debate, it's an emotional debate, but their stronghold is crumbling. The Universe itself is dismantling the arguments and rather quickly. So the hold on tight to creationism... But reality is a formidable enemy, since all of nature backs it up.