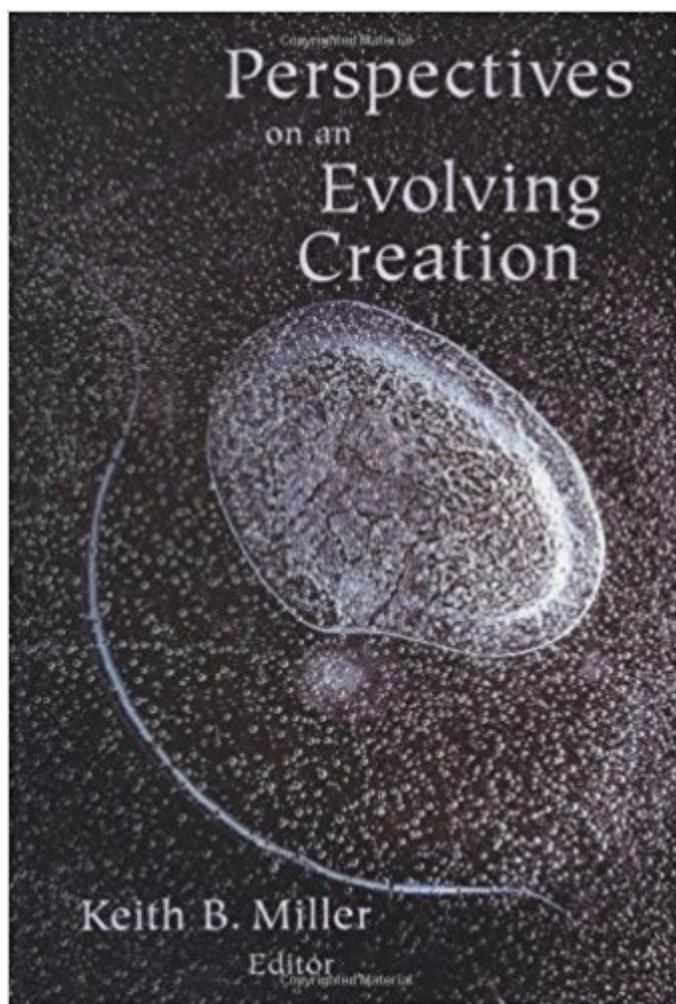


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# Perspectives On An Evolving Creation



## **Synopsis**

According to the authors of this book, who explore evolutionary theory from a clear Christian perspective, the common view of conflict between evolutionary theory and Christian faith is mistaken. Written by contributors representing the natural sciences, philosophy, theology, and the history of science, this thought-provoking work is informed by both solid scientific knowledge and keen theological insight. The three sections of the book address (1) relevant biblical, historical, and scientific background, (2) the scientific evidence for an evolving creation, and (3) theological issues commonly raised in connection with evolution, including the nature of God's creative activity, the meaning of the miraculous, and the uniqueness of humankind. Woven through the volume are short meditations designed to direct readers toward worshiping the God of providence. Contributors: Laurie J. Braaten Warren S. Brown Jr. David Campbell Robin Collins Edward B. Davis Terry M. Gray Jeffrey K. Greenberg Deborah B. Haarsma Loren Haarsma James P. Hurd Conrad Hyers David N. Livingstone Keith B. Miller John C. Munday Jr. George L. Murphy Mark A. Noll Robert John Russell Howard J. Van Till David L. Wilcox Jennifer Wiseman

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## **Customer Reviews**

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I appreciated the perspectives of each essayist. The copy arrived in good condition.

This collection of essays by some of the leading evangelical thinkers and writers in the area of the relationship between the Bible and science is the best introduction by far into evolutionary creationism, which is more commonly known as theistic evolution. The book includes (among others) essays by: Conrad Hyers (Comparing Biblical and Scientific Maps of Origins), Edward (Ted) Davis (The Word and the Works: Concordism and American Evangelicals), Mark Noll and David Livingstone (Charles Hodge and B.B. Warfield on Science, the Bible, Evolution, and Darwinism), Deborah Haarsma and Jennifer Wiseman (An Evolving Cosmos), Jeffrey Greenberg (Geological Framework of an Evolving Creation), Keith Miller (Common Descent, Transitional Forms, and the Fossil Record), David Campbell and Keith Miller (The "Cambrian Explosion": A Challenge to Evolutionary Theory?), James Hurd (Hominids in the Garden?), David Wilcox (Finding Adam: The Genetics of Human Origins), Terry Gray (Biochemistry and Evolution), Robert John Russell (Special Providence and Genetic Mutation: A New Defense of Theistic Evolution), George Murphy (Christology, Evolution and the Cross), and Robin Collins (Evolution and Original Sin). The only topic that is missing is a good discussion of God's accommodation of the biblical creation message to the culture of the time of the Israelites, but this topic is covered more than adequately in Gordon Glover's "Beyond the Firmament: Understanding Science and the Theology of Creation," and Denis Lamoureux's "Evolutionary Creation: A Christian Approach to Evolution." I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the compatibility of biological evolution and the Bible, whether you are just beginning to explore this area or have been for years.

This is an extremely well organized and well written collection of essays that forcefully challenges the supposed conflict between biological evolutionary theory and orthodox, evangelical Christian

faith. It successfully exposes that it is a \*false\* choice to insist that life forms \*either\* evolved \*or\* were designed. The book is comprised of three sections. The first develops a context for the essays that follow, touching on historical, scientific and exegetical elements relevant to the discussion. Part two provides an extensive summary of current scientific evidence and thought on the developing cosmos, the changing earth, and biological evolution. The third section focuses on philosophical and theological issues that are frequently cited in the current debate. The writers come from a variety of disciplines in the scientific and theological communities. They include evangelical Christians at secular universities and at well-respected evangelical institutions (for instance, Wheaton College, Messiah College, Calvin College). Though it is a rigorous book, and sometimes a difficult read (depending on the reader's background in science and theology) I \*highly\* recommend this book for all those seeking truth about the world we live in and the God whom we serve.

This book is worth its hefty price merely for Van Till's essay alone. To be sure, other essays in this compendium help us rational Christians accumulate ammunition to combat the irrationalism of the young-earth creationists who put their trust in Ken Ham. Van Till is relentless and convincing from the outset of his explanation of all creation being evidence of a Creator. I was particularly impressed by his description of the universe in its first few minutes of existence, causing its few constituent components to interact and create the necessary stuff for the ultimate existence of life and sentient beings. When he completes his argument about the first few minutes, even I, a lawyer and trained skeptic, jumped out of my reading chair and exclaimed, "This is both excellent and original -- this deserves a wider audience!" To view the necessary actions of the first few minutes of the universe as crucial evidence for a Creator, found in the necessary order of both substances and processes, was hugely persuasive to me, and will ultimately be persuasive to those who ask me about the relationship between science and faith in the Creator God. It is disappointing to me, personally, that I must recommend this book first to those who are facing spiritual agony over whether Ken Ham's young earth creationism or the discoveries of modern science should be accepted. There should be no antagonism between honest science and honest Christian doctrine, and that is the point of this book. Instead this book should be directed at unbelievers and agnostics, helping them comprehend the evidence in the natural world for a Creator God. However, as a very significant portion of evangelical believers have turned toward Ham's views and the rejection of science, the need for this book to be aimed at believers has become paramount. This book is ideal for readers who want to know whether the discoveries of modern science and the world view of Christianity can be reconciled. The book answers yes, and has impressive evidence to support its arguments. The

writing style of various authors is non-uniform, some being smooth and others obtuse. In the big picture, this volume is worth perusing, choosing to study the most useful authors for one's own style of thinking.

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