

Two Creation Stories  
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

*“Man wonders o’er the earth, the sky, the restless sea, the flowing rivers; but of all the wonders of the universe, man himself is the greatest wonder.”* Augustine

I firmly believe that, when rightly understood, the Biblical view of creation is not in conflict with Science; rather, it is in conflict with any worldview that starts without a Creator. With that clarification in mind I attempt to trace my origin through – “Two Creation Stories”

The secular view that leaves God out of the process, reveals that I am the descendent of a tiny cell of primordial protoplasm; the arbitrary product of time, chance and natural forces. Psychology likens me to a rat running through a maze. Philosophy tries to give me reasons for my running. Historians tell me about my past and statisticians predict my future. I exist on a tiny planet in a minor solar system and an empty corner of a meaningless universe I have no intrinsic value beyond my body, and at death I will cease to exist.

Therefore, I conclude that I came from essentially nothing and I am going nowhere. But, if I am only a dash between the womb and the tomb and I don’t know why; then I must ask, is there any real purpose for my life, either now or in the future?

In contrast, the Christian story offers me tremendous hope. I discovered that I am not the result of some cosmic accident but the special creation of a good and all-powerful God-

*His crown of creation.* I am created in His image, with capacities to think, love, worship and make moral choices that set me above all other life forms.

My Creator loves me and gave His Son to pay the supreme sacrifice for my salvation. I am completely unworthy and undeserving of such love. My salvation is entirely by grace through faith and not of myself.

Now, I only have space for one example of the countless skeptics who have found meaning in the Christian story of creation. Lee Strobel, a former atheist, tells how his beliefs were drawing him down a path of narcissism and despondency. In a random universe without God, he found himself in the grip of despair. As the award- winning legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, he examined the evidence that undergirds Christianity and found answers to many of his deepest questions. He is now a best-selling author of numerous books including the Gold Medallion winner [The Case for Christ](#).

Best of all, the fact that Christ died for each one of us, and wants to live within us by his Spirit in a meaningful relationships, makes us incredibly valuable. And

when we are willing to accept His gift of salvation, through repentance and faith, we can become children of God and spend eternity with Him.

Now, I invite my readers to decide whether it matters which of these two stories is true.