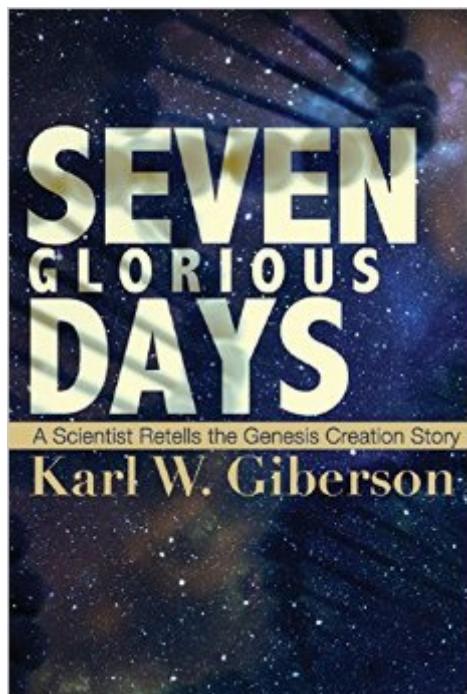


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Seven Glorious Days: A Scientist Retells The Genesis Creation Story



Synopsis

"A deeply inspiring overview of the grand epic of cosmic, biological, and cultural evolution written for Christians and grounded in scientific revelation. Bravo!" ~ Michael Dowd, author of *Thank God for Evolution* What would the biblical creation story look like if it was written today? Is it possible to view modern scientific explanations as "creation stories"? Using biblical imagery and vivid metaphors, popular author and leading science-and-religion scholar Karl Giberson recasts the Genesis creation story within the framework of the latest ideas from modern science. *Seven Glorious Days* takes the reader on a grand ride through the history of the universe from the Big Bang, to the origin of stars and planets, to the appearance of living creatures bearing the image of God. The narrative is accessible, lively and faith-affirming. Readers worried about the tension between science and religion will welcome their harmonious convergence in this timely and provocative book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *Seven Glorious Days: A Scientist Retells the Genesis Creation Story*, author Karl W. Giberson re-presents the Genesis 1 narrative in light of the best scientific explanations of our origins. Thus the seven days are re-written to explore elements of creation through the lens of contemporary cosmogony, astronomy, quantum physics and biology. Giberson teaches Science and Religion at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts, a fellow of the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA), a regular contributor to various journals and periodicals and has written extensively on the relationship between science and faith. He is also popular lecturer and author, he has been a presenter (and

vice president) of the BioLogos Foundation and the editor of Science and Spirit for the Templeton Foundation. In this book, Giberson brings together his skill as a scientist and his literary skill as a lay Christian theologian. The result is a popular level book which culls together the best of human inquiry into Creation and presents it in a warm engaging way. The chief value of this book is not apologetic—I doubt that the young earth creationists or ardent atheists would be convinced by Giberson's prose; however for those with eyes to see and ears to hear (and other powers of observation) this book is a hymn of praise and wonder to God for our fine tuned universe. The topics which Giberson covers range from the Big Bang (neither big nor a bang), the formation of matter at an atomic level, the existence of supernovas and their contribution to the development of the elements in the periodic table, the precise conditions and various factors which conspired to make life possible, and the mysteries of human development.

"The most awe-inspiring aspect of this long, strange trip is the constant presence of mathematical laws, guiding and controlling every aspect. When we examine the world at the "top level," so to speak, the mathematics is invisible. ... On the surface, nature is, to be sure, noisy in the sense of being cluttered, busy, and seemingly without patterns. Even beautiful scenery--picture a mountain lake with snowcapped mountains in the background--rarely seems "organized." But as we apply our scientific knowledge to the cluttered world we experience and drill down to the bedrock of our understanding--eliminate the noise--we find something quite wondrous. At the end of the great hallway that takes us from the social sciences to the natural sciences, through biology and chemistry and ultimately to physics, we find ourselves at last in the presence of a most beautiful and unexplained symphony of mathematics. Across the dark abyss, this mathematics comes clearly into view, out of nowhere, explaining the world around us while remaining unexplained itself. It is part of the Logos of creation."-----I have a general interest in science but have only a layman's grasp of what happened between the Big Bang and now. As a Catholic convert coming from a completely secular mindset, I especially appreciate the hope and optimism that come from seeing science not simply as coldly rational facts, but in the context of a bigger plan. Author Karl Giberson comes from an almost completely opposite background than mine. Raised to believe in the literal truth of the Bible, he was a young-earth creationist. College science classes convinced Giberson that Genesis was a story recounting faith rather than science.

Structurally, this book is broken into seven chapters with each one reprising one of the days of creation described in Genesis. The reader is then treated to a recasting of the text in which the

scientific basis, based on modern science is explicated. The first thing I loved about the book was that, instead of trying to make the Bible into a science text book, Karl respected the Bible for what it is and figured out a way to make it relevant to our time and our current understanding of science. This, of course, is in sharp contrast to the well-meaning Bible-thumpers who try desperately to make science confirm and reveal the essence of the biblical texts. I have my students comment upon a rationalization written by one such individual who tries assiduously to make the statement in Leviticus about grasshoppers talking on four legs not violate the reality that grasshoppers have six legs. The Bible can't be wrong, of course, so two of the legs don't count. i.e., the hind legs are different, so they're not really legs and the Bible continues to be literally true. Or so the argument goes. I knew I was in for a different experience when, on page 3, Karl wrote "I have come to appreciate just how tragic it is that so many young people believe they have to accept the ancient worldview in Genesis as an accurate description of the world of today--as if the science of the Bible was millenia ahead of its own authors." That pretty much says it all. But the good news, as Karl goes on to explain, is that the Bible speaks to us in our time too and with great eloquence when released from the constraints of literalism. Using the Logos of creation as a unifying theme is brilliant. I also appreciate the courage Karl has shown in being willing to allow the biblical text to grow.

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