***‘Getting to Know Pastor Joe’ Columns #11***

**"Bridging Faith and Science: A Balanced Perspective on Creation"**

The question of creation has always sparked debate among atheists and theists alike. However, this debate isn't limited to them—it extends even among Christians.

Some interpret the Bible in their own unique way to explain all scientific data. They belong to the group that insists a day in Genesis Chapter 1 is a literal 24-hour period, the universe was created in six days, and the Earth is only a few thousand years old.

Others acknowledge the existence of God but idolize scientific theories, viewing the Genesis account more as myth or legend. They believe the universe was created by God, but that today’s natural world was formed according to established scientific laws, particularly those of evolution.

Amid these views, there are those who seek a balance between the Bible and science in explaining creation, like John C Lennox, the author of "Seven Days That Divide the World." Lennox, a distinguished professor of mathematics at Oxford University holding PhD, DPhil, and DSc degrees, effectively a triple doctorate in mathematics, physics, and theology, argues that the biblical records are indeed God’s word and truth, and that scientific discoveries affirm this truth. He interprets Genesis Chapters 1-3 with an approach that is both objective and credible.

The Big Bang theory, once merely a hypothesis, is now widely accepted as fact. Lennox believes that Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," describes this cosmic explosion. He envisions the immediate aftermath of the Big Bang as energy forming particles, which then combined to create elements and molecules, eventually forming stars and planets over eons, with subsequent stellar explosions giving rise to our solar system and Earth, as described in Genesis 1:2.

Then, God created distinctions between day and night, separated the waters from the land, and crafted plants, fish, birds, and land animals. Each act of creation concludes with "And there was evening, and there was morning." Based on this, Lennox posits that each creation event occurred within a 24-hour period, as described, but that millions or even billions of years could pass between each "day."

When we look at fossils, rather than seeing a gradual evolution of life as suggested by evolutionists, we see sudden appearances of new life forms after long periods, which supports Lennox's interpretation of Genesis as being close to the truth.