**To what extent can naturalistic explanations of the origins of human life be reconciled by Christians to the Genesis narrative?(10)**

Theistic creationists can reconcile the naturalistic explanations of the origins of human life but special creationists can’t.

Theistic creationists believe the whole mechanism of the evolutionary process was and is, devised and directed by God. They see Genesis 1 as pre- scientific and non-scientific account of creation dealing with matters outside the scope of science. They believe evolution and the Genesis narrative can be reconciled because they say that the scientific theory of evolution explains how life emerged and developed and the Bible explains why God created the universe and why it is the way it is. Religion tells about the purpose while science shows the process. They hold the viewpoint that evolution shows God’s creation to be more incredible than we could ever have supposed or imagined in the past, as God is behind the whole step by step process of the evolution of humanity.

Special creationists reject any idea of the naturalistic explanations of the origins of human life being reconciled to the Genesis narrative. In relation to the theory of evolution they believe that God designed the universe out of nothing (ex nihilo) as complete from the beginning. He made all types of living things direct during creation week, all the birds and fish on day five and the land animals and man on day six. They do accept that evolution can occur within a species according to natural selection and survival of the fittest, as Darwin demonstrated how the finches on the Galapagos Islands adapted to their environment (micro evolution). However they reject the belief that mutations can produce evolution across species (macro evolution). They argue that any mutation results in an overall loss of information and is not advantage in long term survival so one species cannot change into another. They also say the fossil evidence is not complete enough to prove evolution occurred. Special creationists believe God created the world in six 24 hour days and animals only evolve within each species, not to another species.

Thus for special creationists the naturalistic view of evolution cannot be reconciled with the Genesis narrative because they regard Genesis as a historically accurate record.

On the other hand, as we have seen theistic evolutionists can reconcile Genesis with evolution because they believe Genesis is a myth, typical of stories ancient peoples used to explain what they could not understand. Genesis can fit with evolution because Genesis is not a historical or scientific description and is not tied to any timescale. Its purpose rather, is to show that God is an all-powerful, eternal creator who is responsible for making everything, that humans are the pinnacle of creation and that we were made in God’s image for a purpose.