

Theologische Erwägungen zum Thema „Zeit“ im Spannungsverhältnis von biblischer Schöpfungserzählung und evolutionärer Weltsicht

Theological Considerations on the Topic „Time“ between the Biblical Story of Creation and Evolutionary World View

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Abstract

This text argues that certain concepts of time such as a philosophical *evolutionism* and the so-called *creationism* tend to reduce time to an empty container of objects and incidents. Another peculiar affinity both of these conceptions share is the possibility of a view on time from outside, that is to say, a gaze that is itself independent of time. In *creationism*, God is often conceived of as an entity that is capable of such a view. God is then understood as someone who observes the world that he has created according to certain laws and as someone who occasionally intervenes in it. Certain evolutionary conceptions, on the other hand, replace God by the scientist who is able to observe physical and biological laws concerning the „beginning“ and the „end“ of time from a distance. In both conceptions, time itself seems to be left behind since it is either conceived as entropic endlessness or as a transitory stadium of a timeless afterworld. This text shows the limits of a concept in which time is conceived as mechanically passing from one moment to the next regardless of any content. Rather, time manifests as a non-linear event which is able to express each being in its specificity. In its non-linearity, time bears a moment of transcendence. Furthermore, the text argues that the interpretation of the biblical creation narrative does not only correspond to the perception of non-linear subject-like time, which is philosophically outlined in the first part of the paper, but shows that a theological analysis of evolution is possible. Thereby, it demonstrates that it becomes reasonable and necessary to connect phenomena that are usually considered to be contradictory with each other, such as evolution and creation, nature and history, coincidence and freedom, time and God, logos and mythos.

Keywords:

Evolution, Evolutionism, Creationism, Time, Gn 1-2, Philosophy of Time, Bible, Leibniz, Hegel