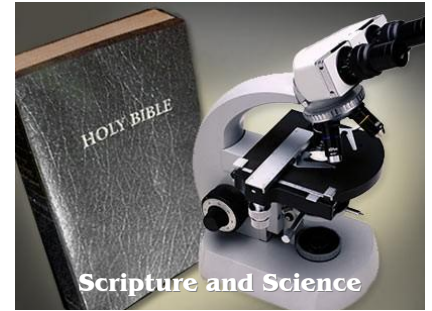


# #3 –What about the age of the earth?

4/25/2010 - Jim Johnson

Sometimes Scripture and Science disagree. When in doubt we have found that it is wisest to go with Scripture. Test Case: The age of the earth.



I. There is disagreement as to \_\_\_\_\_ God created.

A. The vast majority of scientists today contend that the universe is billions of years in age.

B. Some Christian scientists teach that the universe was formed over \_\_\_\_\_ of years.

Most Bible believing scientists today reject the idea of macro evolution from species to species, and yet still maintain that the universe is 14 billion years old and the earth itself some 4.5 billion years old. These are good guys who know and love the Lord. In this theory, God the creator did His creative work in 6 days as the Bible says, but the days are to be understood as “ages of time” with each day equaling billions of years. Though God could have created the world in this way, if He had chosen, the most important question is not what God is capable of doing, but what He actually said He did according to the Scripture.

C. The Scripture seems to teach a \_\_\_\_\_ six, 24 hour day creation design. (Gen. 1:1-8)

1. The text is most \_\_\_\_\_ and easily understood as 6 literal days.

The Scripture was written to every day people without a scientific or a theological education who would naturally read Genesis 1 as referring to literal days.

2. When “day” is joined to an ordinal, it \_\_\_\_\_ refers to a literal day.

The word “day” is sometimes used figuratively in the Bible to refer to an age such as in “the Day of the Lord” but never when the day is qualified by words like first and second.

3. The Genesis days are measured the same way that we \_\_\_\_\_ a day.

Gen. 1:5 refers to this day as consisting of a period of darkness followed by a period of light, “*evening and there was morning, one day.*” Which is how days have always been measured throughout time.

4. If the Lord created using billions of \_\_\_\_\_ He could have easily said so.

There are words in the Hebrew that God could have used to communicate the concept of ages (*olam*), if that is what He intended.

5. God chose to use a 6 literal day design for a practical \_\_\_\_\_.

God could have created this world in 8 minutes or billions of years if He wished. Instead, He chose a scheme of 6 literal days in order to teach man that he should structure his week so that he works 6 days and rests on the 7<sup>th</sup>. (Exodus 20:8-11)

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ behind the creation of man argues for a young earth.

Rev. 4:11 tells us that God created this earth and we His people for His own pleasure. God wanted to have someone to love and to return that love. It does not follow then that He would initiate a plan to create man that would take 15 billion years before it were to culminate. Jesus, the Son of God, **instantly** created wine from a jar of water for the immediate enjoyment of the guests at a wedding. When man did rebel, God immediately went to work to pursue him.

**7. The \_\_\_\_\_ of biblical interpretation favors a young earth.**

The Jews, Muslims and Christians, since the beginning of the faith, have understood the Scripture in this way. Though there are theologians today who hold to an old earth, the theological opinions through the ages on this issue overwhelmingly support a young earth.

**II. So how do we explain this \_\_\_\_\_ between Scripture and Science?**

**A. Science is governed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of uniformitarianism.**

This principle assumes that the processes that we see happening today have always happened in the same way and at the same rate. For example: If it takes a year to erode an inch of rock, then 10 inches of erosion took place over ten years. This principle is fundamental to dating earth and universe.

**B. The Scripture, however, portrays a world that has \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Adam and Eve affected the earth.**

A scientist who studied the Garden of Eden would find a very different earth environment than the one we have today. Food producing plants would grow without cultivation & without weeds (Gen. 1:29-31) A mist watered the earth instead of rain. (Gen. 2:6) The environment permitted a person to live without clothing. (Gen. 2:25) The fall changed all of this.

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Gen. 6-9 also affected the earth.**

Prior to the flood there was an expanse of water that existed in the sky (Gen. 1:7). There is not an expanse of water today. People lived to be close to 1,000 years old. (Gen. 5:1-32) After the flood, the age span quickly shrinks to a span much closer to life expectancy today. (Gen. 11:10-26)

**C. The Scripture tells us that creation was given a \_\_\_\_\_ start.**

When God created Adam and Eve, they did not go through typical human development. God created Adam as a completely mature individual old enough to reproduce - perhaps 18 years of age. If we could transport a doctor back in time to conduct a physical, he would have concluded that Adam had lived for at least 18 years when Adam had in fact only existed for a few hours. Furthermore, God placed Adam into a world that had mature fruit, hanging on mature trees which were rooted in soil that had all the decomposed organic material and minerals and nutrients necessary to sustain a tree. God had to start somewhere. He had to create a mature earth to sustain mature human and animal life. At Cana, Jesus did the same kind of thing by taking ordinary water and turning it into excellent wine.

The natural reading of Scripture here tells us that the processes of the universe began with an extreme acceleration and then were slowed down to our current levels. Just as we assume that Christ superseded the laws of natural science to make wine, we can also assume that God superseded the laws of natural science to create this world.

**CONCLUSION: The \_\_\_\_\_ sense of Scripture seems to support the idea of a young earth.**

There is no explicit statement in the Scripture that says, "God created the world in six 24 hours days." Nor is there an explicit statement that He didn't - so it would be unwise to be dogmatic, and yet the plain and most natural sense of the Genesis account seems to vindicate what has been believed for millennia—that God created this earth in 6 literal days. There is scientific evidence that would disagree, and some theologians who would disagree as well. One can't fully explain the science behind a young earth but neither can we explain how Jesus managed to walk on the water. We believe that He did ONLY because the Bible says that He did.

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Study the issues for yourself. Young Earth - Faith Form and Time by Paleontologist, Kurt P. Wise. Old Earth - The Genesis Question by Astrophysicist Hugh Ross. (for an interesting new twist) The Lost World of Genesis One, by John Walton.