**Is Belief In God Reasonable?**

**The Age Of The Earth (SR: Ps. 33)**

 Christians take many viewpoints that are hostile to the world. One of the most hated and antagonistic viewpoints that Christians are to defend is the biblical age of the Earth. Many, led by evolutionary theorists, will prove to be belligerent toward the true biblical view of the age of the Earth. Rather than be dismissive, we are called to defend this biblical truth (Prov. 15:28). And there are major consequences in this defense and in what can result in our own deception by the influence of these critics and scoffers. Today’s lesson will address the age of the Earth, contrast the evolutionary viewpoint with the biblical viewpoint, and warn of the perils of compromise.

**I. The Evolutionary Viewpoint (Prov. 21:30)**

 A. Universe is around 13-14 billion years old. Earth is around 4.5 billion years old.

 1. This dating fluctuates every few years or so. It keeps getting longer!

2. For example, in the days of Charles Darwin, evolutionists believed the world was 20 million years old. The date gets longer and longer because more species are discovered in the fossil record requiring more transitional forms, requiring more time.

 B. How is this dating arrived at?

 1. Methods Of Dating: Radiometric/Radioisotope Dating (Carbon, Argon, etc.); Ice Core Dating; Isochron Dating

 2. What is not revealed about these methods (2Cor. 10:5):

a. Unreliability –

i. Shown repeatedly by retesting & “blind” testing (up to a billion years difference with different methods!)

ii. Unprovable assumptions in the method itself:

 a. Initial conditions are known (e.g. zero date problem)

 b. A constant decay rate

 c. No leaching or addition of parent/daughter isotopes

b. Interpretive Bias

 i. Assumption 1 – Uniformitarianism (cf. 2Pet. 3:3-7)

 ii. Assumption 2 – Ignores Catastrophism

 a. The Fall (Gen. 3; Rom. 8:20-22)

b. Noah’s Flood – the past is the key to the present! This is the only tenable explanation for the Grand Canyon as it doesn’t currently erode its channel. Had to be caused by rapid catastrophic erosion.

c. Consider the Mount St. Helens eruption in 1980 –

i. 600 feet of rock layers laid down as a result!

ii. Canyon system 1/40 scale of Grand Canyon w/ walls 100ft high created by a mudflow in 24 hours on March 18, 1982!

 iii. Assumption 3 – Ignores Eyewitness Testimony – *“The Bible claims to be the communication to us of the Creator God who has always existed. Its authenticity is overwhelm- ingly verified...In Genesis 1-11, it is revealed how to calculate the age of the earth, and how rock layers and fossils were rapidly and recently formed in the year-long, global, catastrophic Flood.”* (Andrew Snelling, PhD)

c. Carbon dating doesn’t even line up with the evolutionary dating system! Carbon-14 is undetectable after 100,000 years!

3. Various other issues abound including: sedimentation rates, Earth’s decreasing magnetic field, atmospheric helium rates, the continued existence of short-period comets, population growth, etc.

4. *“The Bible reveals that Creation speaks to us about the existence of God and some of the attributes of God, but it doesn’t tell us that we can work out a history of the world just by looking at the Creation. We cannot trust what sinful scientists, who are using anti-biblical assumptions to interpret the cursed Creation. We cannot use their interpretation to interpret the Bible. Rather we must use the Bible to interpret the world we live in.”* (Terry Mortenson, PhD)

**II. The Biblical Viewpoint**

 A. Universe and Earth are between 6,000 and 7,000 years old. No more, no less. This is sometimes referred to as “Young Earth Creationism”. This is in contrast to “Old Earth Creationism” which is usually synonymous with theistic evolution.

 B. How is this dating arrived at?

 1. Biblical Evidence: The Earth is only 5 days older than man (Gen. 1:24-31).

 a. Bible Genealogies (e.g. Gen. 4-5; 10-11; 1Chron. 1-8; Matt. 1; Luke 3)

 i. Lk. 3:34-38 – Adam to Abraham, 20 generations, 2,000 years

 ii. Lk. 3:23-34 – Abraham to Christ, 55 generations, 2,000 years

 iii. Christ to Current Day – about 2,000 years

 b. Usage Of “Days”

 i. Defined by “morning” and “evening” in Genesis 1

 ii. Only places it is used FIGURATIVELY are a handful of verses that speak to the timelessness of God (e.g. 2Pet. 3:8).

iii. There is ZERO evidence to support that even a figurative usage is in mind in Genesis 1. EVEN IF it were literal and we take the figurative passages as an example, we would have thousands of years, not billions.

 iv. Regarded as literal days in the Law of Moses (Ex. 20:8-11).

 v. *“The world’s greatest Hebraists are unanimously agreed that Genesis 1-2 is a narrative. This is utterly unique because all creation accounts in ANE are written in epic poetry. If we start with the text, yom means day. We have to project something foreign into the text to get anything otherwise.”* (Steven Boyd, PhD Hebrew Language)

 c. Genesis Treated As Real & Factual Beginning

 1. Jesus’ viewed it that way (Mt. 19:6; 23:35; 24:37f). He would know! (Gen. 1:26; Jn. 1:1; Col. 1:16)

 2. Paul used Adam and Eve as a basis for his inspired teachings (1Cor. 11:3, 8; 2Cor. 11:3; 1Tim. 2:12-14).

 2. Scientific Evidence (Ps. 119:99)

 a. *Population Studies/Genetics*

i. Common descent of all mankind

ii. If mankind were even one million years old, the population would be 10^5000. This is more people than could actually fit on the surface of the earth! Using the same population formula, Bible timeline suggests 5-10 billion!

 b. *Erosion*

 1. At the current observable erosion rates, all of the continents would have completely eroded in 14 million years.

 2. Mississippi River deposits 300 mill. cubic yds. of sediment into the Gulf every year. The accumulation in its delta reveals a date of about 4,000 years.

 c. *Shrinkage Of The Sun*

1. Astrophysicists determined in 1979 that the sun was shrinking at a rate of 0.1% every 100 years.

2. Based on this data, the sun would have been twice its current size 100,000 years ago and at that same rate, the Earth would have been inside the Sun 20 million years ago. But isn’t Earth 4.5 billion years old? No way!

 d. *Cosmic Dust*

i. Earth is hit by 14 million tons of space materials every year.

ii. If the Earth were 4.5 billion years old, there would be 182 feet of meteor dust all over the Earth. There wasn’t even 1/8” of dust on the moon during the Apollo missions!

 e. *Spiral Galaxies* (Milky Way & Andromeda) – If they were as old as evolutionists claim, they would no longer be spirals as spirals fade out over time (Danny Faulkner, PhD Astronomy)

 C. Are there difficulties we have to deal with when we take the biblical view? Sort of.

 1. The Earth *appears* old. This really isn’t a difficulty. Adam was created, not as a baby, but as a mature adult, capable of procreation. Animals, plants, and the Earth were created similarly.

 2. The biblical dating does not align with commonly used scientific dating techniques. But again, this isn’t really a problem given the unreliability of such measurements and the skewed interpretations of presupposition-biased evolutionary scientists.

**III. Theistic Evolution & Why It’s A Sham**

 A. *The Basic Idea*: God used evolution as the means of creating life on Earth.

 B. *The Reason*: Evolution is believed to be indisputable fact. Why?

 1. Pompousness in the scientific community. If you don’t believe in evolution, you’re an idiot and can’t possibly be accepted as a reasonable person.

 2. Intellectual elitism. An air of intellectual bravado is cloaked in technical nomenclature and Latin. This is done to intimidate those who are unacquainted with such terminology. This method is highly effective.

 3. Misinformation or ignorance. People either just “take it for granted” or believe it is “beyond dispute”.

 C. *The Means*: Vast amounts of time must be interjected into the Creation account.

 1. Gap Theory – There is an unmentioned gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

 2. Day-Age Theory – Each day of Creation was not actually a day as we think.

 D. *The Critical Failure*: Macroevolution and Genesis 1 are irreconcilable.

 1. Compromising plain biblical truth to accommodate a manmade theory is not only unnecessary, but just plain dangerous.

 2. *“The outcome of letting Scripture interpret Scripture is a young earth and universe.”* (Andrew Snelling, PhD Geology)

**IV. Why It Matters (2Cor. 11:3 – Don’t be deceived by the twisting of God’s Word!)**

 A. The Earth’s age is important. It tells us how we are to view knowledge, science, & Bible. It determines how we read the Bible & how we interpret the Bible (correctly or incorrectly). *“...to believe in millions of years is a gospel issue. This belief ultimately impugns the character of the Creator and Savior and undermines the foundation of the soul-saving gospel.”* (Ken Ham, *AIG*)

 B. The Bible clearly teaches that mankind was created in the beginning, around 6,000 years ago. Evolution clearly teaches something very different. If we are going to have the correct view of God, we need to take the Bible as the supreme authority (Rom. 3:4). Millions of years is an attack on Jesus Christ.

 C. Compromising God’s truth proves perilous (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18f).

1. *“Once we start down the road of compromise, it’ll take us further than we ever intended to go.”* (Heath Rogers, *Intro To Christian Evidences*)

2. *“As soon as you surrender the Bible’s authority in one area, you ‘unlock the door’ to do the same thing in other areas. Once the door of compromise is open, even if ajar just a little, subsequent generations push the door open wider. Ultimately, this compromise has been a major contributing factor in the loss of biblical authority in our Western world.”* (Ken Ham)

 D. And as always, with any study of Creation, let us having engaged in this study, develop a mature sense of awe and appreciation for God’s supreme power and sovereignty, for His steady hand, and kindness in the exaltation of mankind. God created the universe in six days out of nothing!

You may be thinking one of several things to yourself. You may be captured in awe at God’s grandeur. You may be convicted by having taken the wrong view on Creation, the age of the Earth, and God’s role in that Creation. Perhaps you have compromised the truth out of ignorance, unwillingness to study, or were afraid to challenge what you have been told. God expects us to love us with all of our minds and to trust Him with all of our heart. Take God at His Word and learn to defend the faith.

If this lesson has led you to some thoughts of self-reflection leading you to feel compelled to make changes in your life, we’d love to assist you. Whether it be in confession the sin of compromise with the world or a desire to become a Christian. God gave His only begotten Son through His grace to remake you in His image by forgiving your sins. If you desire forgiveness now, please let us know as we stand and sing.