

Creation and Intelligent Design



Week 4
Creation
Theories

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A Big Question:

How did we get here?

(or, why is there *something* and not *nothing*?)

Theistic Evolution?

Old Earth Theory?

Young Earth Theory?

Created in Place?

Lots and lots of
theories...

Panspermia?

Day-Age Theory?

Time Dilation?

The "Gap" Theory?

As We Begin...

- Creation theories are interesting, but they're **theories!**
- Bible not a science book; doesn't claim to be
- Important words from Genesis 1 and 2:
 - *Bereshyt bara Elohim et hashmayim ve'et ha'aretz*
 - God created **everything**
 - Heaven, earth, light, darkness
 - Sun, moon, and stars
 - Expanse (separated “*waters below from waters above*”)
 - Land, seas, vegetation (“*after their kind*”)
 - Fish and birds (“*after their kind*”)
 - Insects, animals, and man (“*after their kind*”)
 - God brought **order** to universe (chaos→order, erev→boker)

We're simply not going to know exactly *how* He did it.
(And how is not a salvation issue!)

“Young Earth” Theory

- Earth created about 6000 years ago
 - Irish Archbishop James Ussher
 - A contemporary of Shakespeare
 - Used biblical genealogy to set creation date at 4004 B.C.
 - John Lightfoot
 - Hebrew scholar and contemporary of Ussher
 - Further concluded that creation occurred during the week of Oct 18-24, 4004 B.C., with Adam being created on October 23 at 9 a.m., 45th meridian time!
- Bible sometimes skips “begat” generations
 - Matt 1:8 omits three Judean Kings (Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah) from Christ’s genealogy by calling Joram “the father of Uzziah” (Uzziah was Joram’s great-great grandson)
- Even with skips, no more than ~8000 years old



Ussher



Lightfoot



“Young Earth” (cont.)

- Supported by many scientific observations
 - **Oldest living tree** is about 4300 years old
 - Evidence of **society** less than 10,000 yrs old
 - **Flood** said to explain many “discrepancies” in geologic science (details later...)
 - **Moon recession** of 3.82 cm/yr
 - Moon would have been too close to earth long ago
 - Gigantic tides would have destroyed life on earth
 - Not enough **continental erosion**
 - Earth still too “bumpy”
 - **Faint, consistent young sun**
 - Should have burned out by now



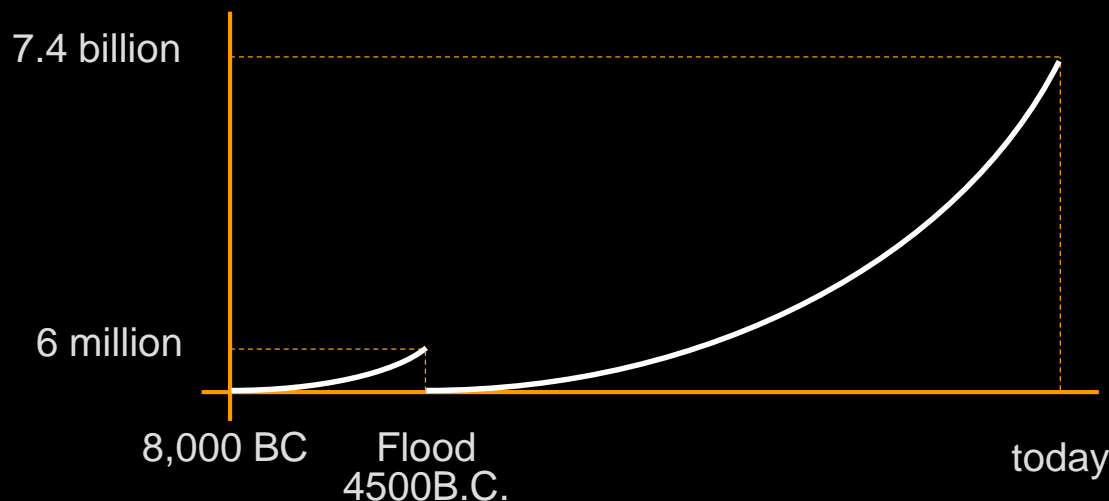
“Young Earth” (cont.)

- Scientific observations (cont.)
 - **Excess fluid pressure**
 - Oil pressure should have dissipated by now
 - **Magnetic decay**
 - Should be almost gone by now
 - **Hot earth, hot moon**
 - Should be very cold by now
 - **Abundant nitrogen**
 - Should have been absorbed into clay and rocks
 - **Oxygen paradox**
 - Would have destroyed early proteins, but no ozone possible without oxygen
 - Ozone protects our planet from harmful solar/cosmic radiation



“Young Earth” (cont.)

- Scientific observations (cont.)
 - **World Population** statistics (H. Morris, 1985)
 - Working **backwards** from today, growth rates indicate a starting point of about 8,000 B.C., with first civilizations appearing about 4000 B.C.
 - Apr 3rd, 2016, 8:03am CST: **7,412,983,635**
 - July 20th, 1954: **2,729,717,908**
 - 1 A.D.: **170 million** (pop. of Brazil)
 - 4500 B.C.: **5-7 million** (pop. of Tennessee)



NB: Many analysts (and some creationists) challenge the growth formula Morris uses. They also challenge his assumptions regarding population growth.

“Young Earth” Summary

- God created everything in **six days**
- Days were **literal 24-hour periods**
- Supported by the biblical text and language
 - “*erev*” and “*boker*” really mean “*evening*” and “*morning*”
 - “*yom*” (translated “*day*”), when used with a number, consistently means a literal day in O.T. scripture
- Answers some confusing scientific observations
 - Including the “*chaos* → *order*” issue...
- Consistent, literal interpretation of scripture
 - “*If you can’t believe the first chapter, can you believe any of it?*”

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day...

- 2 Pet 3:8

“Theistic Evolution” Theory

- a.k.a. “Day-Age Evolution” or “Old-Earth Creation”
- Universe is 13.7 billion years old
- God used evolution to form universe
 - He began it all with the “Big Bang”
 - i.e. He “wound up the clock” and now it’s just running down...
 - Objects in universe moving rapidly apart
 - From a single point? Some disagree...
- Creation days are **allegorical** for geologic eras
 - We’re in the seventh era (“day”) now
- Many claim the fossil and geologic records support an old earth (John Clayton, for one)

“Theistic Evolution” (cont.)

- Unsupported by other scientific observations
 - **Heat loss** of heavenly bodies (still this warm?)
 - Non-uniform **rotation** of planets and moons
 - If planets came from sun, should rotate in same direction...
 - **Thermodynamics** demands **order**→**chaos**
 - Evolution doesn't have reasonable explanation for “ordering”
 - More on this later...
 - Highly **improbable mathematically** for enzymes, proteins, and DNA to evolve
 - Complete lack of evidence for **macroevolution**
 - **Symmetry** (eyes, ears, limbs, lungs, etc.)
 - Evolved at same time? Very hard to explain with evolution
 - Adam was alive when Eve was created (violates evolution)

“Theistic Evolution” (cont.)

- Unsupported (cont.)
 - Non-random distribution of heavenly bodies
 - “Wall” of galaxies
 - “Empty” slice of space
 - Universe is essentially “flat”
- } Some argue this is the simplest, therefore most likely, solution to Einstein’s equations

“He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.”

- Isaiah 40:22, NASB

Psalm 104:2, Jeremiah 10:12, Job 9:8 also refer to God *“stretching out the heavens like a curtain”*

“Old Earth” Theory

- a.k.a. “Theory of Evolution”
- Similar to “Theistic Evolution” but **without God**
 - *“Once upon a time...”*
- Developed from evidence that universe is finite, expanding
 - Significant, since it implies universe had a “beginning”
- Einstein’s general theory of relativity (1915) predicted this expansion (and, therefore, a beginning)
 - But he simply **couldn’t accept that!**
 - So he “fudged” by adding a “Cosmological Constant” to his equations to **cancel the need for a beginning**
 - Later Hubble, others discovered, confirmed an expanding universe
 - Einstein then **removed the constant** and wrote that its insertion was *“my worst blunder ever”*

“Old Earth” (cont.)

- “Big Bang” caused space/time, matter, and energy to exist
 - Not purely random, however
 - Evidence demands a “fine tuning” early on
 - **Anthropic Principle** (“*guided early development*”)
- Life **evolved** over time via **chance** and **random change**
 - **Non-living** things gave rise to **living** things
- No explanation for *pre*-Big Bang
 - Big Bang started at a “singularity” point where space and time cease to exist
 - Possibly nothing existed before the Big Bang
 - i.e. everything literally **popped out of nowhere!**

Today, scientists accept the “Big Bang” as the only viable explanation of the origin of the universe

The “Panspermia” Theory

(“fertilization from across the universe”)

- Life came to earth from outer space
- Example: The Raelians
 - “Intelligent Design for Atheists”
 - Book: *Message from the Designers* (the “Elohim”)



“The Raelian Revolution is boldly bringing about a complete paradigm shift on our planet. The Messages given to Rael by our human Creators from space contain the world's most fearlessly individualistic philosophy of love, peace, and non-conformism: a beautiful combination of spirituality, sensuality, and science.”

From the website, <http://uk.rael.org/page.php?1>

- Francis Crick (Nobel Prize for DNA discovery)
- Merely shifts the issue of creation elsewhere

“Created in Place” Theory

- Earth’s “ancient” records (fossils, geology) were created by God “in place” to appear old
- Light from distant stars created “in transit” to appear far away (thus older)
- Gives man a viable alternative to believe in
 - Pharaoh’s magicians did “signs” just like Moses (Ex 7-8)
 - Bible says they used “secret arts” (black magic)
- Seems to cast God as a deceiver—clearly unacceptable!
 - Eight times Scripture says **God cannot lie** (e.g. Num 23:19, Titus 1:2, Heb 6:18, others)

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (emphasis mine)

Rom 1:20

As We Leave the Theories...

- Creation theories interesting, but just **theories!**
- Bible not a science book; doesn't claim to be
- Main point from Genesis 1—**God created everything**
 - We simply don't know exactly *how* He did it
 - And “how” is **not a salvation issue**
 - Like the bumper sticker says...

God Said It, I Believe It,

That Settles It!