A Young Earth

**Introduction:** One obvious contrast between Evolution and the Biblical account of creation is the age of the universe, the earth, and the life upon it. Evolutions say the universe is 13.82 billion years old. The earth formed 4.54 billion years ago. The first life appeared about 3.49 billion years ago, and man first walked the earth about 200,000 years ago, though his ancestors existed over 4 million years ago. (None of these dates are universally accepted by all evolutionists).

In contrast, even if we account for some gaps in the Biblical chronologies, the universe, earth and man’s existence upon it can be dated to less than 10,000 years. The idea of a “young earth” is ridiculed by most scientists, and some brethren. Following is some data that can be best interpreted from a Biblical perspective.

* **Population statistics.** Using an accepted statistical probability formula, the human population on earth (humanoids have existed for the past 1,000,000 years) would be 1 X 105000. That’s 1 followed by 5000 zeros. Using creationist’s figures, the number would approximate the estimated number of humans on earth, which is about 7 billion.
* **Decay of Earth’s magnetic field.** The earth’s magnetic field exists due to the large electric current circulating in the core of the earth. It is decaying in a consistent fashion. Using the formula and backtracking, Thomas G. Barnes, late professor emeritus of physics at the University of Texas at El Paso, in 1973 calculated the upper limit of this time span to be 10,000 years. He contended that going back any further than that, would cause the field to be at such huge values that the Earth could not sustain itself and would rupture and crack.
* **Polystrate fossils.** Polystrate fossils are fossils that exist in multiple layers of sedimentary rock. Evolutionists maintain that the sedimentary layers were laid down over millions of years (uniformitarianism). But polystrate fossils are common, for example, tree trunks that thrust vertically through multiple sedimentary layers. These fossils are more readily explained by rapid sedimentation (catastrophism, flood). Other examples: whale, catfish and other animals.
* **Hydrogen in the Universe.** Hydrogen can’t be produced in any significant quantity by any known process. However, throughout the universe, hydrogen is constantly being converted to Helium. This is a “one way” process. And yet, the universe is made up almost entirely of Hydrogen. An ancient universe should contain little or no hydrogen. Dr. Fred Hoyle, eminent English astronomer, stated, “How comes it then that the universe consists almost entirely of hydrogen? If matter was infinitely old, this would be quite impossible. So we can see that the universe being what it is, the creation issue simply cannot be dodged.”
* **Atmospheric Helium.** It has long been understood that helium in our atmosphere is the byproduct of the disintegration of uranium and thorium in the Earth’s crust. Some of this radiogenic helium finds its way to the earth’s surface, where it enters the atmosphere. The low amounts of Helium in the atmosphere correspond to an age of the earth approximating 10,000 years, not 4.54 billion.

**Consider the reality of Apparent Age:**

(Quote from Kyle Butte, Apologetics Press, Apparent Age. http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=9&article=548)

“…it should not surprise us if science occasionally calculates older dates for the Earth, due to a concept known as the ‘doctrine of apparent age.’

“This idea suggests that the things God made during the Creation week were formed complete and fully functional. For instance, how old were Adam and Eve two seconds after God created them? They were two seconds old! Yet they walked, talked, and looked like adult human beings, and even had the ability to reproduce (which was one of the commands God gave them—Genesis 1:28). If a tree were cut down in the Garden of Eden one day after the Creation week, how many rings would it have had? Possibly hundreds, yet it would have been only five days old (trees and other plants, remember, were created on day three of the Creation week). So, the **real** age of the tree and the **apparent** age of the tree would have been quite different. Just because this Earth may **appear** older than 6,000 years, that does not mean it **is** older than that.

“Some people have suggested that if God made the Earth appear older than it actually is, then He has deceived us because things aren’t really as old as they look. This criticism can not be true since **God told us what He did!** He did not leave us in the dark or try to ‘trick us’ or ‘test our faith’ by hiding from us important information that we would need. Rather, He was very straightforward and honest with us. Considering the material found in the first eleven chapters of Genesis (and elsewhere through the Bible), no one can justifiably accuse God of deception. If we ignore His Word regarding what He said He did, is it God’s fault? Hardly!”

**Evolutionary Assumptions regarding dating methods:**

* *Doctrine of Uniformitarianism:* the same natural laws and processes that operate in the universe now have always operated in the universe in the past and apply everywhere in the universe.
* Specifically, with the subject of dating minerals, and organic materials, that the rate of decay of radioactive isotopes has remained constant. (Can’t be proven, must be assumed).
* Carbon 14 dating, as an example: Age is determined by assuming the amount of Carbon 14 at the time of death, assuming a constant rate of decay of the isotope as is currently observed, and measuring the present amount of Carbon 14 remaining.
  + Doctrine of uniformitarianism contends these assumptions are valid
  + Catastrophism argues that there are many unknowns, which may affect the values assumed. For example: The amount of Carbon 14 and its distribution at the time of creation. The atmospheric conditions pre-flood. The flood as an event. The higher values in the earth’s magnetic field early in the earth’s history. Etc.
* Note: Similar objections can be raised regarding other forms of radiometric dating.

**Examples of spurious dating:**

* High levels of hydrogen in microscopic zircon crystals found in pre-cambrian strata. Radioisotopic dating results in an estimated 1.5 billion years in age for these crystals. However, the levels of hydrogen in the samples attest to an age of about 6,000 years.
* All samples of organic material in the Phanerozoic era (500 million years to present) contain measurable amounts of Carbon 14. However, the half life of Carbon 14 would yield unmeasurable amounts within 250,000 years (using uniformitarian assumptions). Most deposited at same time?
* Wood dangled in a highly alkaline hot spring in Yellowstone Park substantially petrified in a single year’s time. It is commonly taught that wood petrification takes millions of years.
* Australian researchers discovered that rounded and smooth black opals form rapidly (weeks or months) as a result of a certain type of bacteria interacting with its surrounding environment. (Geologists believed that the polished surfaces of the opal are the result of eons of weathering).
* After the Mt. St. Helen eruption (1980), most due to the melting of the glacier: Over 600 feet of sedimentation full of animal and plant remains. Already solidified into sedimentary rock and fossils. Wood is petrifying. Peat (precursor to coal) has formed. A deep canyon has been gouged out. Igneous rocks formed in 1980 have yielded radiometric dates of millions of years.
* A catchy slogan helps illustrate this: “To form geologic features, it either takes a little bit of water and a long time, or a lot of water and a short time.”

**The earth really doesn’t look old. It looks flooded!**