

BIBLICAL TEACHING CONCERNING CREATION

A. Does the word “day” refer to an actual 24 hour time frame, or does it refer to a time period?

1. Zechariah 14:9-21 – What kind of adjective is used with the word “day” in this passage? – multiple choice:
 - a. a numerical adjective like “second, third” or “fourth”.
 - b. an indefinite article like “a” or “an”.
 - c. a definite article like “the”.
 - d. a pronoun-type adjective like “this, that, these” or “those.”

2. Zechariah 14:9-21 – The word “day” in this passage refers to – multiple choice:
 - a. a definite 24 hour day
 - b. a period of time since verse 16 mentions that they go up year after year to worship at Jerusalem.
 - c. just the daylight portion of a 24 hour period.
 - d. less than a 24 hour period.

3. Genesis 1:3-31; 2:2-3 – What kind of adjective is used with the word “day” in this passage? – multiple choice:
 - a. a numerical adjective like “second, third” or “fourth”.
 - b. an indefinite article like “a” or “an”.
 - c. a definite article like “the”.
 - d. a pronoun-type adjective like “this, that, these” or “those.”

Note: A numerical adjective used with the word “day” always refers to a 24 hour period in the Old Testament unless Genesis 1:3-31 is the lone exception.

4. Genesis 1:3-31; 2:2-3 – The phrase “there was evening and there was morning” strongly indicates that the word day should be understood as – multiple choice:
 - a. a definite 24 hour day
 - b. a period of time
 - c. just the daylight portion of a 24 hour period.
 - d. less than a 24 hour period.

5. Exodus 20:8-11 – These verses tell us that the days in Genesis 1:3-31; 2:2-3 are to be considered as – multiple choice:
 - a. a definite 24 hour day
 - b. a period of time
 - c. just the daylight portion of a 24 hour period.
 - d. less than a 24 hour period.

6. 2 Peter 3:8 states that God – multiple choice:
 - a. considers a day to be equal to 1000 years
 - b. considers a day to be as or like a 1000 years
 - c. considers a day to be equal to an indefinite period of time

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7. 2 Peter 3:8 cp. 3:1-9 – The context of this verse is speaking of – multiple choice;
- that we should not understand God’s word in a plain and normal sense.
 - that we should be patient like God is patient in the matter of Christ’s second coming because God does not see time as people see it.
 - that we should understand the days of creation as long ages instead of 24 hour days.

Note: The idea that the days are ages and actual 24 hour days is an attempt by Christians to harmonize the biblical account of creation with evolution. However, the evolutionary order of events of how the earth evolved geologically and biologically does not follow the same sequence as the biblical account in Genesis.

B. Is there a distinction between God creating and making something?

- Genesis 1:21 - God created (Hebrew “bara”) – multiple choice:
 - animal life of the sea
 - winged creatures or birds
 - animals of the earth
 - both a and b
- Genesis 1:25 - God made (Hebrew “Asah”) – multiple choice:
 - animal life of the sea
 - winged creatures or birds
 - animals of the earth
 - both a and b
- Genesis 2:19 – God formed (Hebrew “yatsar”) – multiple choice:
 - animal life of the sea
 - winged creatures or birds
 - animals of the earth
 - both b and c

4. Match the following:

Genesis 1:26

Genesis 1:27

Genesis 2:7

Genesis 2:22

- _____ a. Man was formed (Hebrew “yatsar”) out of the dust of the ground.
- _____ b. Both man and woman were created (Hebrew “bara”).
- _____ c. Man was made (Hebrew “asah”)
- _____ d. Woman was fashioned or built from pre-existing material, specifically man’s rib.

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5 Isaiah 65:18-20 – God states that He will create (Hebrew “bara”) the millennial city of _____ for rejoicing.

6. Psalm 51:10 – David prayed that God would create (Hebrew “bara”) – multiple choice:
- a. a new heart for him
 - b. another heart for him
 - c. an additional heart for him
 - d. a clean heart for him

5. Some Bible students argue that the Hebrew word “bara” translated “created” means that pre-existing material was not used. They further argue that the Hebrew words, “asah” and “yatsar” translated “made” and “formed” respectively, mean that pre-existing material was used. Based on your answers to questions 1 through 6, these arguments are - multiple choice:

- a. correct
- b. incorrect

C. The gap viewpoint of creation

1. Genesis 1:1 - At some unknown point of time called “the beginning” God created the _____ and the _____.

2. Genesis 1:2 – At some other unknown point of time the _____ was (which can be translated “became”) without form and void.

3. Isaiah 45:18 – God did not create the _____ a waste place (same Hebrew phrase translated “without form and void” in Genesis 1:2).

4. Isaiah 14:12-17 – The fall of Satan made the _____ a desert or wilderness.

5. Genesis 1:3-31 describe a re-creation of the heavens and earth in this viewpoint.

D. Problems with the gap viewpoint

1. Matthew 19:4-6 cp. Genesis 1:26-27 – Jesus referred to the events of the sixth day of creation as – multiple choice:

- a. a period of time after the beginning
- b. a period of time before the beginning
- c. a period of time called the beginning.

2. Exodus 20:8-11 tell us that the heavens and earth were made in _____ days and that God rested (literally “ceased from labor”) the _____ day.

3. Genesis 1:31 - What was God’s assessment of His creation after the sixth day? It was _____.

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4. Genesis 1:31 – What does this verse do to the idea that Satan fell between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2? – multiple choice:
- a. Since Satan was created, it would mean this verse is not completely correct when it states everything was very good because Satan would not be good.
 - b. it support the idea
 - c. it sheds no understanding on the question.
5. Ezekiel 28:13-17 cp. Genesis 3:1-6, 14-15 – Satan was:
- a. in the garden of Eden only after he fell
 - b. never in the garden of Eden before he fell
 - c. in the garden of Eden before he fell as well as after he fell
6. The gap viewpoint refuted point by point:
- a. Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 are not simultaneous statements as the gap viewpoint understands them. Most Hebrew scholars understand Genesis 1:1-2 as stated by the Original Creation Understanding.

Gap Understanding	Original Creation Understanding
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth became without form and void.	In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was without form and void.

- b. Isaiah 45:18 – When it states that God did not create the earth without form and void, it is looking at the whole six days of God’s creative activity. The words “the beginning” refer to the entire 6 days. Please note your answer to question 1 in this section above.
- c. Satan’s fall had to occur some time after the sixth day as noted by your answers to questions 3 through 5 in this section above. Therefore his fall occurred sometime between Genesis chapter 2 and chapter 3 and not prior to the 6 days of creation in Genesis 1:3-31.

Note: The gap viewpoint is another attempt to harmonize scripture and science. Jesus’ miracle of turning water into wine in John 2:1-11 shows that God can create things with the appearance of age. For example the wine Jesus created from water had the appearance of having been grapes grown from a grape vine, with the grape juice taken out and allowed to ferment. This process would have taken at least a year. Yet Jesus created this wine instantly. In the same way God created the earth with the appearance of age. When science calculates the age of the earth, and life forms, it relies on observation and analysis as well as the philosophical basis of uniformitarianism and naturalism. Both of these are philosophical assumptions and not scientific. Uniformitarianism is the assumption that the processes of nature have been basically the same for millions or billions of years. The comment of Peter in 2 Peter 3:4 sums up this view. The comment reads, “Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” Naturalism is the view that nothing happens that cannot be explained by natural processes. It denies the miraculous or supernatural

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despite the fact that credible witnesses both inside and outside of scripture have reported supernatural happenings. For additional study, see the book "Basic Theology" by Charles Ryrie. Chapter 29 discusses evolution and origins and is one of the best discussions you will find. Chapter 30 speaks about the Bible and origins which covers some of the material already studied in this handout.

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E. Overview of the creation account

Put the following scripture references by the event to which they belong:

Genesis 1:1-2; 1:3-5; 1:6-8; 1:9-13; 1:14-19; 1:20-23; 1:24-31; 2:1-3; 2:7; 2:8-9; 2:15; 2:16-17; 2:18; 2:19-20; 2:21-22.

- _____ 1. God purposed on the 6th day to make a helper for the man.
- _____ 2. God made the light and darkness on the 1st day.
- _____ 3. God's only command to the man was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- _____ 4. On the 6th day God made livestock, wild animals, creatures that move along the ground, and both man and woman.
- _____ 5. When God began His work of creation of the heavens and the earth, the earth was empty and without any form.
- _____ 6. God made woman out of the rib taken from the man.
- _____ 7. God made the space between the waters in the sky and the waters on the earth on the 2nd day.
- _____ 8. The man was supposed to work and take care of the garden.
- _____ 9. On the 5th day God made the water creatures and the flying creatures.
- _____ 10. God let the first man Adam name the animals created earlier on the 6th day and on the 5th day.
- _____ 11. God made the sun, moon and stars on the 4th day.
- _____ 12. God ceased from working on the 7th day.
- _____ 13. Man was formed out of the dust of the ground.
- _____ 14. On the 3rd day God made the plant life including the trees and all other vegetation.
- _____ 15. God placed man in the garden that He had previously planted.

Note: Many have incorrectly assumed Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Genesis 2:4-25 are separate accounts of creation. This is refuted by the fact that Egyptian writings prior to the time that Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Old Testament used a literary form in which the first section gave an overview of an event followed by a second section that gave details of specific matters given in the first section. Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Genesis 2:4-25 use this literary form. Since Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22), it is logical that he would use this literary form. Genesis 2:5 is understood in 2 different ways. Some understand it to mean that only plants and shrubs of the field requiring cultivation had not yet sprouted. Others understand it to be giving additional details of the first 2 days of creation. The word "planted" in Genesis 2:8 does not refer to the creation of plant life but the planting of the Garden of Eden by God. The verb form actually means "had planted" as in the NIV which would mean it could have been planted the same day as the other plant life was created. Genesis 2:19 does not give another creation account of animal life as the verb form translated by many as "formed" actually means "had formed" as in the NIV. What this is saying is that on the 6th day Adam gave names to all the animals that God had previously formed on the 5th and 6th days.

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EVIDENCES FOR A YOUNG UNIVERSE

Quoted from “Laying the Foundation” by Charles Clough,
former pastor of Lubbock Bible Church

(Cited with Permission)

Legend:

HVP = Human viewpoint. Information that even unbelieving scientists would concede is true. In other words these argue scientifically for a young universe even if one did not accept the biblical evidences.

Uniformitarianism = The belief that all the natural phenomena that are observed now have been going on for an indefinite time in the past in the same manner.

Erosion Rates

Even if the present slow rates of erosion were granted without any past catastrophism, many erosion processes could not have existed for more than a few thousand years. For example, the Mississippi delta, at the present rate of formation, cannot have taken more than 5000 years to form.¹⁴ The upper gorge of Niagara Falls is less than 3500 years old by estimates based upon present rates of erosion.¹⁵ Stalactites and stalagmites (dripstone formed by calcium carbonate and water in caves) have grown at an extremely rapid rate.¹⁶ The Great Salt Lake in Utah closed up less than 2500 years ago.¹⁷ If the present slow rate of erosion of uranium salts from the continents into the oceans is assumed, the oceans can absolutely be no older than 100,000 years instead of the billions regularly believed.¹⁸ Erosion rates, then, are significant indicators of a young age in the earth's surface features. Since in the past there have been eras of mountain building and other catastrophism, the erosion rates of the present day are probably far too small to be considered as average values. The ages indicated from the erosion rates must, therefore, be the maximum ages possible, the actual ages probably being significantly lower.

Population growth rates

If one grants the HVP uniformitarian assumption in the matter of population growth rates of living things, remarkably, a young age rather than an old age is indicated.

Plant and animal life develops population-wise very rapidly. The chances, therefore, of each species which has ever lived being represented in the fossil record is excellent. Since megaevolution requires progressive development of species through the inefficient process of chance mutation, one would expect that numerous extinct species would appear in fossil form. Thus, for every living species today there should be many extinct species recorded in the fossil record. Nevertheless, when the fossil record is examined, for every ten living species, only one extinct species is found.¹⁹ Where are the representatives in the fossil record of all the extinct species expected by megaevolution. Plainly, no such long, gradual development of speciation ever occurred.

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Mankind also develops population-wise very rapidly. If mankind has existed for one million years and each family had an average of 2.4 children, the world population would now stand at 10^{2700} ! On the other hand, the same population growth rate in 5000 years (roughly equal to the time between Noah and the present) could have easily produced the current world census of less than 10^{18} . Since the worst wars and famines known to man have not significantly reduced the population growth rate, it appears that mankind cannot be much over 5000 years old.²⁰

Mutation Rates

If mutations are assumed to have occurred over millions of years, there is the problem pointed out by Dr. Lammerts:

The ratio of “harmful” to “useful” mutations is at least 1000 to 1. Quite obviously, if a species really did evolve by natural selection, the genetic load of drastic or harmful mutations would become so high in a few hundred generations as to result in all offspring having some defect. The fortunate fact that this is not yet true, in the human race or in most plant and animal species argues strongly for the special creation of the species unit, and especially for its existence for a relatively short time instead of hundreds of thousands or millions of years.²¹

Deep well fluid pressures

Drillers of deep wells often encounter subterranean fluid pressures that are extremely high. Dr. Cooks shows how these pressures simply could not have been maintained in the earth’s depths for millions of years. He writes:

Among the strongest arguments for a maximum age of the earth of less than 100,000 years is the occurrence of abnormally high fluid pressures in deep drill holes. To retain them for longer than 10,000 to 100,000 years is apparently impossible under the observed permeabilities of reservoir and trap formations.²²

Helium lack in Atmosphere

Since helium is given off from the earth into the atmosphere, there should be far more helium in the atmosphere than is found at present, if this process has been going on for millions of years. Present levels of helium show that the process (granting uniformitarianism) can not have been going on for more than 10,000 years.²³

Astronomical evidence (meteoric dust)

If meteoric dust has been filtering down to the earth’s surface over millions of years, then the earth should be rich in nickel accumulations. Yet the nickel content in the oceans indicates that the filtering process could only have been going on for several thousand years at the most. The surface of the moon should be covered to a depth of many feet with this dust; yet, as the lunar landing have shown, it is not.²⁴

Astronomical evidence (meteoric material around the sun)

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Another astronomical evidence for a young universe is the presence of tremendous amounts of meteoric material around the sun. Prof. Harold Slusher writes:

By certain physical forces in a time of 2 billions years any masses or rock less than six feet in diameter within the earth's orbit would be cast into the sun. This "sweeping up" process would get rid of anything less than three inches in diameter inside Jupiter's orbit and anything less than 1/10 inch in diameter inside Neptune's orbit. Yet significant quantities of meteoric matter are known to exist.²⁴

Astronomical evidence (# of comets in solar system)

Also related to this evidence to this evidence is the presence of so many comets in the solar system. Short-period comets can survive no longer than 10,000 years. Why then are there so many comets today, if the universe has been going on uniformly for millions of years?²⁵

Notes

- 13 Henry M. Morris lists 74 such examples, 20 of which give dates for earth history of less than 50,000 years in "The Young Earth" CSRQ XII (June, 1975), 19-22.
- 14 Benjamin Allen, "The Geological Age of the Mississippi River," CSRQ, IX (Sept. , 1972), 96-114.
- 15 Velikovsky, EIU, p. 162.
- 16 Note the photograph taken inside Carlsbad Caverns of such a formation with a bat cemented upside down in a stalagmite. Clearly the bat must have been rapidly encased by the growing stalagmite or the body would have decayed. Mason Sutherland, "Carlsbad Caverns in Color," National Geographic Magazine, CIV (Oct. , 1953), 442. Two more pictures showing extremely rapid growth of dripstone can be found in Pensee, II (May, 1972, 15.
- 17 Cook, PEM, p. 21.
- 18 Ibid. , p. 15
- 19 Ibid. , pp. 328-29
- 20 See discussion in Morris, BCMS, Chapter 6. Interestingly, these calculations are confirmed by applying them, independently, to the Jewish population growing from Jacob's family 3700 years ago to the present 14 million figure.
- 21 Walter Lammerts, "Mutations Reveal the Glory of God's Handiwork." WNC?, p. 303
- 22 Cook, PEM, p.341
- 23 Ibid. , pp. 10-14. Also TGF, pp. 384-5
- 24 Harold Slusher, "Some Astronomical Evidences for a Youthful Solar System," CRSQ. VIII (June, 1971), 56-57.
- 25 See discussion, Ibid. , p. 57. Similar evidences are discussed in Robert G. Somer. "Effect of Radiation Pressure on Micrometeoroids and Evidences for Young Solar System," CRSQ, XII (June, 1965), 7-10; and in Peter A. Stevenson, "Meteoric Evidence for a Young Earth," CRSQ, XII (June, 1975), 23-25.