

- Overview**
1. Textual & contextual issues in Genesis 1-2.
 2. Young earth creation view.
 3. Old earth creation view.
 4. Q&A.
- CORECLASSES**

Textual & Contextual Issues in Genesis 1-2

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Young Earth

The first view is often called, Young Earth (YE). According to this first view, God created everything (time, space, matter, and life) about 7,000 to 10,000 years ago in 6 literal 24-hour days and with the appearance of age. For example, Adam was created as a grown man, not as an infant. Trees were created full grown, not as seeds about to sprout.

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Old Earth

The second view is often called Old Earth (OE). According to this second view, God created everything (time, space, matter, and even life) over the course of billions of years. This involved multiple stages, each being the miraculous creation by God. Then, the final creation by God was *Homo Divinus*, aka Adam and Eve; and this occurred relatively recently. Adam was not created through evolution; Adam was a direct and recent creation by God whereby Adam and Eve bore the image of God, and Adam's creation occurred in history at the end of a very long process involving multiple creative acts of God over billions of years.

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Common Ground

1. God is the creator (Gen 1:1; Col 1:15).
2. God ultimately created *ex nihilo*, "out of nothing". (John 1:3; Heb 11:3).
3. God not only is the creator, but God is the one who constantly preserves creation, even holding its molecules together (Col 1:16; Acts 17:28).
4. Creation has an orderly design due to God's guiding hand (Prov 8:22-31).
5. Adam and Eve were real people of history, being the first humans to bear God's image (Gen 1:26-28; Rom 5:12; 1 Cor 15:21f).
6. A real flood occurred which covered the entire ארץ (*eretz*).



Clues from Genesis 1-2

- Clue #1: The earth /ארץ (*eretz*) is already existing *prior* to the start of Genesis' 6 days of creation, with Day One beginning at v.3.
- Clue #2: The common understand of *eretz* as "earth" can be misleading, as Genesis 1 is not describing the creation of the planet.



What Is Eretz?

1. There is a difference in shape and size of the area between their *eretz* and our planet.











What Is Eretz?

1. There is a difference in shape and size of the area between their *eretz* and our planet.
2. There is a difference in referent. In other words, Moses' word *eretz* refers to a specific "thing" in Genesis 1 (its referent), and this referent is unlike our planet earth.

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What Is Eretz?

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "eretz," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

Gen 1:9-10



What Is Eretz?

Before we discuss the evolution of life inside eretz, we need to figure out what eretz is. What are its borders? What lies inside of it? What lies outside of it? How does it relate to the territory of the garden of Eden? What are its placial features? Remember, Moses did not write "earth"; he wrote eretz. So let's be literal and not jump to figurative conclusions.



Clues from Genesis 1-2

Clue #1: The earth /אָרֶץ (eretz) is already existing prior to the start of Genesis' 6 days of creation, with Day One beginning at v.3.

Clue #2: The common understand of eretz as "earth" can be misleading, as Genesis 1 is not describing the creation of the planet.

Clue #3: What about death? Doesn't evolution require death to have occurred for billions of years prior to Genesis 1-3?



Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned . . .

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Conclusion

1. Genesis 1-2 is compatible with either of the views.
2. Planet Earth is not an appropriate translation of עֶרֶץ; we would be better served to leave it untranslated as *eretz*.
3. Animal and plant death prior to Adam and Eve are compatible with Genesis 1-2.

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Young Earth View

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Why Is This Important?

1. This is not an essential doctrine.
2. However, it does impact how you interpret Scripture – sin, death and atonement – as either literal or allegorical. Understanding this subject also impacts your level of confidence in defending your faith.

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Young Earth – Big Ideas

1. There is nothing in Scripture that indicates long ages are necessary or have happened.
2. Moses and Jesus indicate a young earth, as did Peter and Paul.
3. Long age interpretation seems to result from a belief that “science” has proven the earth to be 4.6 billion years old - and believers are trying to sync Scripture with what we “know to be true from science.”
4. There is science that indicates a VERY young earth.

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Young Earth

“And the evening and the morning were the second day.”
Genesis 1:8b

“For in six days God created the heavens and the earth, and He rested on the seventh.”
Exodus 20: 11

Given that watches weren't invented yet, can you think of a way God could have been any clearer?

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Young Earth Timeline

When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

Genesis 5:3

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Young Earth Timeline

After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

Genesis 5:4-5

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Young Earth Timeline

When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh.

Genesis 5:6

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Young Earth Timeline

After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

Genesis 5:7-8

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What Does the Scripture Say?

1. Jesus said "But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6; Matt 19:4).
2. Jesus said "the blood of all the prophets (specifically Abel), shed since the foundation of the world . . ." (Luke 11:50-51).
3. Paul said ". . . sin entered the world through one man and death through sin . . ." (Rom 5:12-14).

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What Does the Scripture Say?

4. Paul said evidence of God as Creator is "clearly seen" (by men) ever since "the creation of the world" (Romans 1:20).
5. Peter said ". . . which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21).

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Has Science Disproven the YE View?

Proponents of an old earth make many assumptions about the past that are incorrect, if the YE interpretation of the Bible is true. Observable science doesn't support those assumptions; however, Naturalists continue to make them in an attempt to keep science consistent with their presupposition – excluding all aspects of the supernatural.

Is there scientific evidence that points to a young earth?

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DNA: What We Know . . .

1. Geneticists are learning that RNA / DNA is the most sophisticated coding (programming) mechanism ever devised (See Mark Eastman video on YouTube)
2. Mutations (copying errors) are minimal, representing very young existence of mankind.

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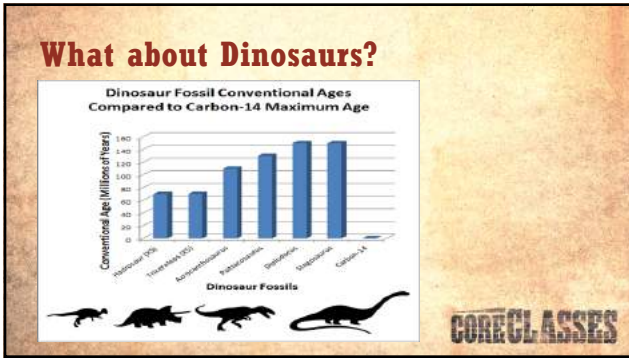
mtDNA Supports a Young Earth

1. All human mtDNA plots to one of three "mothers."
2. Gaps between nodes supports biblical gap from Eve to the flood.
3. Maximum gap consistent with 4,400 year period from the flood to today.




The human mitochondrial DNA tree shows three central nodes, marked by blue arrows. These are the ancestor of exposed mtDNA sequence differences between the lines of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The longest branches represent the highest number of mtDNA differences between people groups, and these lineages match Bible-based predictions. Image adapted from supplemental Figure 1 from Jaxson's paper. Used by permission of Answers in Genesis.

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What about Dinosaurs?



1. Collagen = 900K years max age.
2. T-Rex and Hadrosaur – Collagen and Hemoglobin

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Soft Tissue

FOSSIL ANALYSES WITH VERIFIED ORIGINAL SOFT TISSUES

Publication Date	Brief Description	Evolutionary Age	Publication
Articles Published in Peer-Reviewed Journals			
1 5/30/1977	Carbonyl fatty fat in Green Blane	10MY	H. P. Buchhorn and R. C. Sordani, <i>Geology</i> , 5: 198
2 6/14/1992	Osteocalcin in a tetraposon bone	150MY	Mayer, G. et al. <i>Geology</i> , 20: 871-874.
3 9/23/1992	DNA in amber	30MY	Moritz, V. et al. <i>Science</i> , 257: 1890.
4 6/16/1994	Unfractionated amino acids in amber insects	130 MY	Bada, J. L. et al. <i>Geochemistry et Cosmochimica Acta</i> , 58 (14): 3131-3135.
5 6/16/1994	Dinosaur DNA from hadrosaur bone	65MY	Woodward, S. R., N. J. Weyand and M. Buzwell, <i>Science</i> , 266 (5188): 1209-1212.
6 5/19/1995	Live bacteria spores from amber	25-40MY	Cain, R. J. and M. K. Borucki, <i>Science</i> , 268 (5213): 1060-1064.
7 6/10/1997	Hemoglobin fragments in T. rex bone	6795Y	Schweitzer, M. et al. <i>PNAS</i> , 94 (12): 6291-6296.
8 6/2/1999	Live bacteria from huile deposit	250MY	Vielzeuf, R. H. et al. <i>American Society for Microbiology</i> , 99th General Meeting, June 2, 1999, Chicago.
9 5/21/1999	Live bacteria from separate rock salts	230MY	Stam, Lester, H. et al. <i>Microbiology</i> , 143 (12): 3565-3574.
10 6/21/1999	Ichthyosaur skin	100MY	Lingham-Soliar, T. et al. <i>Proc. Royal Soc. B</i> , 266 (1436): 2367-2373.
11 6/21/1999	Keratin in Madagascar Cretaceous bird	65MY	Schweitzer, M. H. et al. <i>J. Natl. Geogr.</i> , 191 (6): 713-722.
12 9/1/2001	T. rex collagen SEM scans	65MY	Amelberg, M., <i>Creation Research Society Quarterly</i> , 38 (2): 41-46.
13 9/28/2004	Live (non-spore) bacteria in amber	130MY	Greenblatt, C. L. et al. <i>Microbial Ecology</i> , 48 (1): 120-127.
14 3/24/2005	T. rex soft tissue	68MY	Schweitzer, M. et al. <i>Science</i> , 307: 1952-1955.
15 7/25/2006	Soft tissue from spores	190MY	McNamera, B. et al. <i>Geoscience</i> , 36 (4): 634-638.

Coals & Diamonds

1. Coal is believed to be hundreds of millions of years old - yet all coal contains C14.
 2. All diamonds tested during the RATE project contained C14, indicating ages <50,000 years old!
 3. Thousands . . . Not Billions
- Dr. Don DeYoung



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Old Earth View

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Old Earth

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”

Genesis 1:1

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Old Earth

And so, from nothing our universe began. In a single blinding pulse, a moment of glory much too swift and expansive for any form of words, the singularity assumes heavenly dimensions, space beyond conception. The first lively second produces gravity and the other forces that govern physics. In less than a minute the universe is a million billion miles across and growing fast. There is a lot of heat now, 10 billion degrees of it, enough to begin the nuclear reactions that create the lighter elements - principally hydrogen and helium, with a dash of lithium. In three minutes 98% of all matter there is or will ever be has been produced. We have a universe. It is a place of the most wondrous and gratifying possibility, and beautiful too. And it was all done in about the time it takes to make a sandwich."

Bill Bryson, A Short History of Nearly Everything



Are God and Science Incompatible?

Do we have to choose God OR science?

No!

These are false alternatives.



Are God and Science Incompatible?

If I ask you who is responsible for the origin of a Ford vehicle, Henry Ford or a car-production line, what would you say?

"BOTH!"



Are God and Science Incompatible?

“The fact is that both of these explanations are necessary: they do not contradict but complement each other. Henry Ford is the agent who designed the car; the car-production line is the mechanism by which it is manufactured. Similarly, we do not have to choose between God and the Big Bang. They are different kinds of explanations – one in terms of God’s creatorial [creative] agency and the other in terms of mechanism and laws.”

John Lennox, Seven Days that Divide the World



Are God and Science Incompatible?

“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 . . .”

Romans 1:20

“The heavens declare are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge”

Psalm 19:1-2



What is the Old Earth Creationism?

Old earth creationism (OEC) is an umbrella term for a doctrine that denies that the universe was created recently.

Rather, it holds that God created the universe and its inhabitants over a much longer period of time than is allowed for by young earth creationism (YEC).



What is the Old Earth Creationism?

OEC agrees with mainstream scientific estimates of the age of the universe, humanity and Earth itself, while rejecting the claims of modern evolutionary theorists with respect to biological evolution.



Old / Young Earth Common Ground

1. The literal creation of the universe out of nothing a finite time ago
2. The literal creation of Adam out of the dust of the ground and Eve out of Adam's side as well as the historicity of the Genesis account
3. The rejection of the claim of Darwinists that random mutation and natural selection can adequately account for the complexity of life
4. The rejection of the claim that God used the process of evolution to bring about modern man (theistic evolution). Both OEC and YEC categorically reject the theory of common ancestry



Old / Young Earth Differences

1. The age of the universe:
 - YEC: 6,000 – 10,000 ya
 - OEC: 14 billion ya
2. The time of the creation of Adam and Eve:
 - YEC: 6,000 – 10,000 ya
 - OEC: 30,000 – 150,000 ya
3. The nature of the fossil record:
 - YEC: Hominids (bipedal primates) were descendants of Adam and Eve and were fully human
 - OEC: Hominids (bipedal primates) were created/non-human, spiritless with limited intelligence and emotional capacity.



What Is “Days” in Genesis 1-2?

Three Major Views:

1. **The 24-hour view:** The days are seven 24-hour days, of one earth week, about six thousand years ago.
2. **The day-age view:** The days are in chronological order, each representing a period of unspecified length.
3. **The framework view:** The days exhibit a logical, rather than a chronological order.

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What Is “Days” in Genesis 1-2?

Why do old earth creationists think that “days” can mean long periods of time of unspecified length?

The simple answer is because the Hebrew word *yom*, “day,” is used in multiple ways in Genesis 1 and 2.

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What Is “Days” in Genesis 1-2?

In Genesis 1:5, “God called the light **day**, the darkness He called night”

In Genesis 1:14, “Then God said, ‘...and let them be ...for **days** and years.’”

In Genesis 2:4, “This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the **day** that the Lord God made earth and heaven.”

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Scientific Data

Radiometric dating - the process of determining the age of rocks from the decay of their radioactive elements - has been in widespread use for over half a century. There are over forty such techniques, each using a different radioactive element or a different way of measuring them. It has become increasingly clear that these radiometric dating techniques agree with each other and as a whole, present a coherent picture in which the Earth was created a very long time ago. Further evidence comes from the complete agreement between radiometric dates and other dating methods such as counting tree rings or glacier ice core layers. Many Christians have been led to distrust radiometric dating and are completely unaware of the great number of laboratory measurements that have shown these methods to be consistent. Many are also unaware that Bible-believing Christians are among those actively involved in radiometric dating.

Dr. Roger C. Wiens, "Radiometric Dating: A Christian Perspective," accessed at <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/resources/Wiens.html>

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Scientific Data

"For example, take **light**. As we look out into the sky at night, we can see objects that give every appearance of being many light-years away from us, so that their light began to travel from them to us many years ago.... The Andromeda galaxy appears to be some two million light-years away, so its light would have left it two million years ago. The most distant galaxies and quasars we can see seem to be over ten billion light-years away, which suggests that the universe is at least that old."

Dr. Robert C. Newman, "Progressive Creationism," in *Three Views of Creation and Evolution*

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Problem

If God created an earth and universe with an appearance of age, then we are witnessing a fictitious history.

Titus 1:2, "... in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago ..."

1 Samuel 15:29, "Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind ..."

Hebrews 6:18, "... so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie ..."

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Old Earth Proponents

John Ankerberg	Hank Hannegraff	Perry Phillips
Gleason Archer	Jack Hayford	William Phillips
John Battle	Fred Hoeren	Mike Poole
Michael Behe	Charles Hodge	Bernard Ramm
William Jennings Bryan	Walter Kaiser	Jay Richards
Walter Bradley	Greg Koukl	Hugh Ross
Jack Collins	C. S. Lewis	Fritz Schaefer
Chuck Colson	Paul Little	Francis Schaeffer
Paul Copan	Patricia Mondore	C. I. Scofield
William Lane Craig	J. P. Moreland	Chuck Smith Jr.
Norman Geisler	Robert Newman	David Snoke
Robert Godfrey	Greg Neyman	Lae Strobel
Guillermo Gonzales	Mark Noll	Ken Taylor
	Nancy Pearcey	B. B. Warfield

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Q&A

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