

The Age of the Earth — What Difference Does it Make?

According to **Wikipedia**, “the age of the earth is 4.54 (plus or minus 0.05) billion years.” Another source, in round numbers, put the age of the earth as 4.6 billion years. Whereas many consider the earth to be between four and five billion years old, they regard man as being much younger. Illustrating this point, we note these words from the pen of Henry Morris, an eminent scientist connected with the **Institute for Creation Research**: “Although written records made by early man go back only several thousand years, evolutionists generally believe that man and the apes diverged from their unknown common ancestor about 30 to 70 million years ago, and that true modern man had arrived at least one million years ago, possibly more than three million years ago,” (**Scientific Creationism**, p. 160).

So there you have it! Evolutionists generally believe the earth is between four and five **billion** years old, and that “man and the apes diverged from their unknown common ancestor about 30 to 70 **million** years ago.” Admittedly a million years is a long time, but (relatively speaking) it is a short time when compared to a billion years.

Others affirm the existence of a “young” earth — “young” as expressed in thousands of years old as opposed to **billions** of years! Illustrating this point, we note that Don Batton (June, 2009) published an article entitled “101 evidences for a young age of the earth and the universe.” These “evidences” covered different categories. Reasons 1-11 dealt with “Biological Evidence of a Young age of the earth.” Reasons 12-50 dealt with “Geological Evidence.” Reasons 51-64 dealt with “Radiometric Dating.” Reasons 65-95 dealt with “Astronomical Evidence.” And Reasons 96-101 dealt with “Human History.”

Obviously, we are not taking the time or space to analyze each of the reasons cited, but they are sufficient to prove that many learned, highly educated people have **not** embraced the evolutionary hypothesis that the universe is billions of years old, or that man evolved millions of years ago.

Sadly, in today’s world, the General Theory of Evolution is often taught as being a proven fact in many of our public schools and universities. Yet, when all is said and done, the theory of Evolution has never **been** proven, and never can be proven by what is called “the scientific method.” For example, the word “science,” by Miriam Webster, is defined as “knowledge about the natural world that is based on such facts learned through **experiment** and **observation.**” In other words, true science deals with things that exist; it does not deal with the origin of those things. Years ago, Luther Blackman, a faithful preacher of the gospel made this observation: “Give an evolutionist a bag of bones and a few billion years, and he will have more fun than a monkey on a mile of grapevine,” but he then observed that evolutionists do not want to “deal with origins.” When all is said and done, the Evolutionist (though he ridicules the “blind faith” of others) has embraced a theory based strictly upon faith, a theory which also contradicts certain known **facts** of true science! Some evolutionists even admit that this theory can not be scientifically proven. For example, D.M.S. Watson, who held the position of the Chair of Evolution at the University of London for over 20 years, reportedly stated that “evolution itself is accepted by Zoologists, not because it has been observed to occur or can be proven by logically coherent evidence to be true, but because the alternative, special creation, is incredible.” In other words, he chose to believe in evolution because the only other alternative is to believe in “special creation.” Perhaps this is the reason why Evolutionists generally refuse to publicly defend in open debate their impossible-to- prove theory.

I believe man arrived on planet earth by special creation. Evolutionists believe that man evolved over eons of time from a single cell which spontaneously generated itself into existence.

The fact is this: both the creationist and the evolutionist are walking by faith. But true faith is based upon “*evidence*,” Heb. 11:1, not blind superstition.

Inasmuch as something cannot come from nothing, then something had to originally exist “*in the beginning*” in order for something to exist now. Inasmuch as mind is greater than matter, then it should be obvious that the **first cause** that caused everything else had to be mind as opposed to matter. But in view of the complexity of matter, that first cause that caused everything else had to possess the qualities the Bible ascribes to “God.” Hence, I strongly believe the first verse of the Bible, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*,” Gen. 1:1. The Bible which affirms God’s existence is the most authenticated book in existence, having been proven to be true by both internal and external evidence. Inasmuch as the existence of a house affirms the existence of its builder, Heb. 3:4, the **creation** affirms the existence of its **Creator**, Rom. 1:20.

Much, much more can be cited as to why it is reasonable to believe in special creation, and unreasonable to believe in the general theory of evolution. But, for the sake of space, we must get back to the title of this article, “the age of the earth — what difference does it make?”

First, we observe that the universe and man were both created in the **same week!** Moses plainly said, “*for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day..*,” Ex. 20:11. This takes us back to Genesis chapter one, wherein scripture plainly states what was created on each of the six days of “the creation week.” After citing what was created on a given day, the record stated “*the evening and the morning were*,” and then it mentioned days one through six, vs. 5,8,13,19,23,31. Chapter two begins by saying, “*Thus the heaven and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished, And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which he had done*,” Gen. 2:1-2. The expression “*the evening and the morning*” denote regular 24-hour days. Both man and the universe came into existence the same week! The prophet Isaiah affirmed that man has been mindful of the Sovereignty of God “*from the beginning*,” yea “*from the foundation of the world*,” Isa. 40:21. If one both believes the Bible and knows what it teaches, he believes that man and the earth are both basically of the **same age**, each coming into existence in less than seven days apart.

But what about man? Adam is clearly spoken of as “*the first man*,” I Cor. 15:45. Now turn to Luke 3:23-38, and you will note that the Genealogy of Jesus Christ is given all the way from Joseph back to “*Adam the son of God*,” v. 38. Now turn to Matt. 1:1-17, and you will note that the Genealogy of Christ is traced from Abraham to Joseph. Now turn back to Gen. 5:1-32, and note the lineage given all the way from Adam to Noah, and in Genesis 11:10-26, and you will note the lineage from Shem (a son of Noah) to Abraham. By examining all these verses, you will discover the lineage is given from Adam, the “*first man*” all the way to Jesus Christ! By summarizing this information, you will discover that the age of man, at best, could not be over 10,000 years! But the Bible clearly teaches that both man and the universe were created in the same week! Hence, there is no way to harmonize both special creation and the general theory of Evolution! It is one or the other; it can not be both!

But What Difference Does It Make?

1. It affects our view of God. We either believe “*He is*,” Heb. 11:6, or we deny His existence.

2. It affects how we live. If we believe that God exists, intellectual honesty demands that we regard ourselves as amenable to God. Thus we will be focused upon doing His “*will*,” Matt. 7:21, instead of simply embracing the concept of Situation Ethics, and the survival of the fittest.

3. It affects our view of the Bible! Ironically, many believe that God exists, but they deny the plain teaching of the Bible regarding what it says about Creation. Sadly, in many pulpits there are countless “*wolves in sheep’s clothing,*” who claim to believe the Bible, but have exchanged what the Bible teaches on this topic for the unproven assumptions of unbelieving Evolutionists! If we can disregard what the Bible teaches on **this** subject, what prevents us from disregarding what it teaches on **other** subjects?

4. It affects where we will “spend eternity!” In that last day we will be judged by the word of the Lord, John 12:48. If we deny what His word teaches, will we be granted an entrance into that heavenly abode?

Conclusion: Beloved, the Bible account of creation is not fiction. It is plain Bible truth, and Jesus said “*you shall know **the truth,** and **the truth** shall make you free,*” John 8:32.

—Bobby Witherington