

CSA News

The Creation Science Association for Mid-America

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man" Psalm 118:8

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Is Creation Relevant?

By Tom Willis

"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." Thus opens an old story, but the line seems to apply today. On one hand, it seems there are an enormous number of committed Christians trying to be true disciples of the Lord Jesus. Yet there remains rampant apathy, false teaching and apostate leadership. Creation is certainly not the only fact of Christianity being so treated. But, since that is the work the Lord has called us to, I feel I should focus on Creation rather than other issues.

In recent years, Young Earth Creation has the complete upper hand in science, seldom losing a debate, and building a stronger base annually. Yet it is more excluded from science and from the church. We'll suggest reasons for this later as space permits. First, we'll discuss a key question:

Is "Young Earth Creation" Important, Or Even Relevant to the Church of Jesus Christ?

- ♦ **Mat 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Mat 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

The mission of the Church is twofold:

- 1) Evangelize people by teaching them the truth about the origin, meaning, purpose and destiny of life from God's Word (of course the crux of this is that God created all things, is thus owner of all, establishes the rules, and **will punish, all who break his rules**, and all have broken his rules, that God has provided a resolution to the untenable position that man is in by loving us enough to take our punishment himself, in the form of Jesus, if we will but accept his offer) and
- 2) Teach them the rest of the things God has said, exhorting them to obey them.

Any church not doing these two things is not just wasting your time, it is positively dangerous to you and your family.

- ♦ **Joh 17:14** I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
This is smack in the middle of the great "church unity" prayer. The followers of Jesus are to be set apart and unified by, through, and around the "Word of God," not according to human opinion.
- ♦ **Joh 3:12** If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

His message seems plain, if someone does not believe Jesus when He speaks to us about physical science (the observable facts of nature), Jesus stated flatly that they would not truly believe him when he spoke of resurrection or eternal life. But, belief in Jesus is the definition of a Christian. Therefore, anyone who does not believe Him about Earthly things, is not a Christian... period. That does not mean they may not become Christians, but it certainly does mean that they are objects of



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missionary work, not saints, and hardly prepared for Church leadership.

Is Genesis Really That Important to the Gospel?

"Old earth science" began with a couple self-appointed "scientists" attacking the writings of Moses. Lyell, the British lawyer "Father of Modern Geology" attacked Moses by name on virtually every page of the first 100, and did not let up. Oh, he did not attack Moses, merely the idea that Moses wrote anything useful to Geology. Consider Lyell's view of Moses compared to the view held by Jesus and the Bible:

- ♦ The book of Genesis is quoted, alluded to or referred to over 200 times in the New Testament. Genesis 1 - 11 are referred to over 100 times. Every single New Testament author mentions the 1st 11 chapters of Genesis at least once. Not once is Genesis treated as anything but pure history. It is never hinted that it might be symbolic, or allegory, much less myth.
- ♦ Moses is named 39 times in the New Testament, 19 times by Jesus.. Moses is always treated as a source of history and doctrine.
- ♦ Jesus quoted Moses (Gen 1 & 2) to establish of the doctrine of marriage (Matt 19:4-9).
- ♦ Jesus used Moses' narrative of the Flood as an illustration that it will be similar when He returns.(Matt 24:36-39)
- ♦ Jesus ascribed unbelief in Him to unbelief in Moses:
Joh 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.
- ♦ Hardly least, Jesus said unbelief in Moses could not be overcome by even the resurrection:
Luk 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Now one might try the argument that, "Well, he used those lines on Jews." True, he did, but, for that argument to hold water, we must believe Jesus insisted the Jews believe something that Science has disproved. The evidence is that Jesus insisted the writings of Moses are true, and real science agrees with Jesus.

The typical claim of "old earth, evolutionist, big bang, Christians" is that Moses and the prophets need to be reinterpreted to fit "science." The ironic tragedy is that, most people who think like this are held in high esteem in large segments of the Church, yet the vast majority of them could not enunciate the "science" of old earth/big bang/evolutionism, much less defend it Scripturally or empirically in a calm discussion or debate if their life depended on it (which, of course it does).

"OK, So the Bible is Important, but What About Young Earth Creationism"

First let's give a working definition of YEC:

1. The Earth and all its major components were created in six days, not six million or six billion years.
2. Those six creation days were only a few thousand years ago, not millions of years ago.
3. When the six days were complete, every major life form was complete, with the genetic (or other) potential to diversify and/or adapt to any condition through which God wanted it to survive, for the length of time God chose. Thus, an accelerated movie of the entire history of each created kind would show some "evolution" as the kind diversified, e.g., among varieties of dogs. But would show no development into entirely different forms such fish to lizard, lizard to bird,

Some argue that the Bible is not YEC. Space will not permit an exhaustive review of their claims, the most frequent ones are easy to deal with.

"Six days are not literal, or may have been long days".

One "proof text," "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." 2 Peter 3:8. 2nd Peter 3 opens saying he intends to stimulate pure or sound thought, and reminds them that "scoffers will come in the latter days" arguing that it seems Jesus will never come back. Peter reminds them that a key characteristic of these scoffers is they will pretend to forget that the earth was formed out of water, and later flooded by these same waters (both of which 'old earthers do). Here, Peter uses a literal interpretation of Genesis 1 and 6-8. Furthermore, he is obviously saying that the Lord does not work on man's time schedule because He has lots of time and is patient, "not willing that any should perish." Conversely, Peter clearly is **not** saying "when the Lord uses the word day, we do not know what he means."

You can clarify this issue by reflecting: In English, we can say "In King George's day, the ladies wore long skirts," so the Hebrew word for day (yom) can also be used to mean a period of time. But, you know what is meant by the context. The Hebrew "yom" occurs 2295 times in Scripture with not a single argument over what it means except in Genesis 1. Rather the argument is caused by rejection of the clear meaning, supposedly because of "science."

In the Old Testament "Yom" occurs with "evening" or "morning" 47 times, in all cases referring to a solar day. Each time it occurs with a number, it means "a day." In Genesis one, "evening **and** morning" and the "nth day" are used to describe each day. Therefore, it is more clear in Genesis 1 than anywhere else in the Bible.

Finally, there can hardly be further discussion after reading Exodus 20, inscribed in stone by the finger of God: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of

the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work... For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day." Ex 20:8 - 11

Thus, the meaning of "yom" (day) is never more clear than it is in Genesis 1, sealed in Exodus 20 and reaffirmed in Ex 31:14-17. There is widespread refusal to believe, but not one shred of a sound argument that the Bible describes anything other than a six-day creation..

Various "6 Days and Billions of Years" Theories

There are several of these variants. "Six days, billions of years ago" simply doesn't wash. Genesis and Exodus both affirm that everything of consequence (including all basic types of life) was created "In the beginning."

"Well, maybe the earth is billions of years old, and recreated 6000 years ago." This type of view is held by "gap theorists" and by "progressive creationists," such as the contemporary Hugh Ross. Both are in direct conflict with Romans 5:12 and the entire message of Genesis (vegetarian in the beginning) and the restoration passages. Jesus is to restore to "The lion shall lay down with the lamb... the little child shall lead them." Yes, I am aware of a new book dedicated to refuting this position, but, from what I have read, it is without substance, and we have not space. Both of these views must ignore the clear words of Genesis 1 and Exodus 20 (reaffirmed, incidentally, in Exodus 31:17)

Regarding the various views that the earth might be old, but Genesis somehow restarts it, or there might be gaps in the genealogies, I have yet to see one cogently reasoned. It is important to note that the entire sense of time as presented in the bible is of thousands of years. To sensible **people this is a very long time** When we study "ancient history" we do not think "millions!" We think "Romans, Greeks, Egyptians, Chinese and Hebrews."

But there is much more:

- ♦ Luke named 75 men between Adam and Jesus. A total elapsed time of only about 4,000 years prior to Jesus. Some make a big deal about the extra Canaan in Luke, but it is a simple fact of history that the Canaan was not in the earliest copies of Luke. Perhaps related to large number of mentions of Canaan in Genesis, it must have been an early copyist error.
- ♦ In a very important doctrinal assertion, Paul states flatly that the Law was given 430 years after the promise to Abraham: "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise [to Abraham] of none effect." Gal 3:17
- ♦ Jude states matter-of-factly, "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam..." Jude 1:14

In my judgment there simply is no Biblical case for old earth, long creation days, "God used evolution," or "God created progressively over millions of years." I am quite aware that some people think I am a fool, perhaps even the majority. My response is quite simple:

1. I stand ready to let you, or any champion you can round up, make a public fool of me in a public debate.
2. I doubt there will be many takers, much less any successful debaters, though there are many who debate creationists behind their backs, and declare themselves victors.
3. Even if I "lose" a debate, it will probably be because of my ignorance or lack of skill, not because of the incorrectness of my basic position. Like Paul, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, I much prefer being a fool **for** Christ to being a fool **to** Christ.

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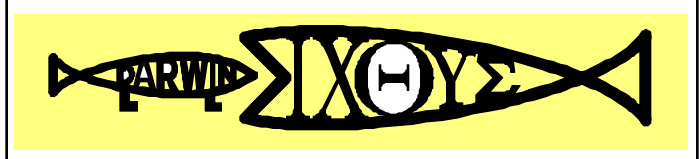
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CSA Meeting - Tuesday, May 4, 2004

The American Indian: A Fresh Look, Part II

by Lynn Lemons

Lynn is an avid student of American History, especially of "Native" or "Indigenous" Americans. This is the 2nd of a two part series, covering: 1. What "Indigenous Americans" thought about their origins (based on oral traditions, since no written history is available), 2. What current "scholarship" has to say on the matter, 3. How the study of "Native Americans" is plagued with the same errors and agenda-driven biases that are common in the evolution debate, and 4. A balanced discussion of the relations between "Native Americans" and Colonialist Europe and, later, the American Colonies.

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The Wonders of Nature

by Bob Farwell

In Romans 1:20 we learn God's position on whether creation is science: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Here we see that God insists the evidence is so overwhelming that man has no excuse for failing to acknowledge that the "natural world" was created by Him. To what is God referring? Bob has quite an assortment of pictures and information from God's creation from which you can get a pretty good idea.

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