

The Earth

Formed to Be Inhabited

A biblical approach to the problem of the origin and development of the Earth with special attention to its unique place in God's plan of redemption.

Stand up and bless YAHWEH your God
Forever and ever!
Blessed be Your glorious name,
Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!
You alone are YAHWEH;
You have made heaven,
The heaven of heavens, with all their host,
The earth and everything on it,
The seas and all that is in them,
And You preserve them all.
The host of heaven worships You.

Nehemiah 9:5-6

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Introduction

In the old-earth young-earth debate much attention is given to Genesis chapter 1 and the six days of creation. Proponents of both views spend much time adducing scientific data to support their view. Did God form the earth from pre-existing mass or did he create the earth from nothing? Did living things evolve or did God form them in a short period of time? It is the burden of this essay to consider these matters in the wider context of the Bible which will help us understand the first chapters of Genesis.

As we see the beauty of God's handiwork around us we should remind ourselves of the reason for our existence. We need to ask ourselves where we came from and why are we here. It seems that the world around us is very interested in such questions. Our nation is currently being softened up to accept a multi-billion dollar manned expedition to Mars in order to shed light on the origin of life on earth. A current theory is that life began on Mars and was exported to earth and because the earth was more hospitable to Mars life forms, complex living organisms evolved at a faster rate into what we see today. It is believed that the earth is 4.5 billion years old but present life forms have only been evolving over the last 65 million years.

Furthermore, there must be many other earth like planets in the universe and therefore countless other life forms must have evolved. Then too this is not the only universe. There are countless other universes or galaxies observed in the heavens, the earth being in one of them known as the Milky Way. With the new Hubble telescope orbiting around the earth where there is no smog or atmosphere to distort the view of the heavens it is said that we can now see much deeper into space perhaps 15 billions of light years and that we are able to see the origin of the universe, indeed that we can now see god.

The view of the origin of the universe that pervades modern science is known as the *Nebular Hypothesis* or "big bang" theory. All the mass in the universe was originally compressed into one small part of space and exploded into clouds of "gas" which condensed into stars. These gas clouds or stars moved away from the site of the explosion in all directions. After billions of years our sun threw off clouds of gas and dust which evolved into the planets in our solar system and then our earth threw off the moon. The original earth was a ball of fire which subsided into profuse volcanic activity finally cooling into a water covered planet with one area of dry land. After more millions of years the tectonic plates comprising this area of dry land moved into the position of the continents we presently know. And during this time life forms were spontaneously generated in the sea, came out of the sea to dry land and evolved into the life forms we know today.

This is a brief sketch of the theory of the origin of the earth that is held by the great majority of science today, however, the Bible instructs us in a very different view of the origin of all things.

1

The Origin of the Earth

One's view of the origin of the universe and life depends largely on one's presuppositions. If, for example, one assumes that there is no God or that God is transcendent and inactive, there must be a physical or natural explanation for the origin of the universe and everything in it. Furthermore, the physical processes we observe today have been going on uniformly as long as mass, space and time have existed. In thinking about the origin of the universe and examining the phenomena of the world and universe alternatives not consistent with this presupposition are discarded.

On the other hand if we assume that there is a God who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in all his attributes and that he is actively preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions, the origin of the world and universe about us is not necessarily physical or natural. Furthermore, the physical processes we observe today have not necessarily proceeded without intervention. In thinking about the origin of the universe and examining the phenomena of the world and universe we discard alternatives that are inconsistent with God's revealed truth in the Bible. The Bible controls our thoughts and opinions, not science.

The earth on which we live is not the result of random processes taking place over billions of years. We read in Isaiah 45:18-19 "For thus says YAHWEH, Who created the heavens, Who is God, **Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited:** "I am YAHWEH, and *there is* no other. {19} I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; I, YAHWEH, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right."

YAHWEH, who is God, formed the earth separately from all the rest of his creation for the express purpose of habitation. This means clearly that the earth was not a random indirect result of a big bang nor was it the result of second causes. This also means that the earth is the only place in all the universe where people live and this is true because the place of man's habitation was not a random event but a specific event for a specific reason. (Psalms 115:16) "The heaven, *even* the heavens, *are* YAHWEH'S; **But the earth He has given to the children of men.**" God formed the earth directly. It was not the result of any other created thing.

Similarly in Genesis chapter 1 we read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. {2} The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Here the earth is created separately and distinctly from the

heavens or the rest of the universe. The Hebrew word *barah* means that God created the heavens and the earth from nothing, therefore **neither of them** originated from pre-existing mass.

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* (Chapter IV Paragraph I) puts it this way, "It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or **make of nothing**, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good.

This means that the earth did not originate from the sun. In fact, the earth at this point was by itself, there being no other mass in the universe, and covered entirely with water. We know that the earth has a very hot core and that it occasionally comes to the surface through volcanoes. However, just because the center of the earth is very hot does not necessarily mean that it came from the sun. YAHWEH created it to be that way. Physically the earth does not appear to have come from the sun for many reasons such as the tilt of its axis relative to the sun and the angular momentum of the earth, seen in its orbit about the sun, which is many times greater than it should be if it came from the sun. However this may be, it is not at all relevant to our argument. The authority of Scripture is sufficient.

At this point there was not even any light. The rest of creation occurred on successive days all of which had the characteristic of evening and morning. It began on *yom echad* as the Hebrew literally reads or "day one." The Hebrew word *echad* is a cardinal number meaning "one" not "first". The rest of the creative days are numbered ordinally. Furthermore, ordinal numbers are always definite in Hebrew thus it is not precisely "a second day" or "a third day" etc., but "the second day" and "the third day", etc. Thus the sun moon and stars were not created until "the fourth day". The historical sequence of the creative days informs us that the earth was created uniquely by God and independent of any other entity in the universe.

Furthermore the light created on day one was different from the sunlight created on the fourth day¹ and for a different purpose. God created light on day one to differentiate darkness or absence of light. This created the difference between daytime and nighttime, morning and evening. The light bearers created on the fourth day were provided for "signs and seasons, and for days and years." (Genesis 1:15) This difference between light and the sun is seen also in Psalms 74:13-17 You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters. {14} You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness. {15} You broke open the fountain and the

¹ Light as we know it consists of packets of energy with mass and time related properties and it exists apart from the sun or any of the light sources with which we are familiar.

flood; You dried up mighty rivers. {16} **The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun.** {17} **You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.** This Hebrew poetic form consists of difference pairs; day-night, light-sun, North-South, East-West, summer-winter. The Psalm also states that God directly created all these particular entities such that they were not the result of long time related random processes.

Let us notice from our text in Isaiah 45 some other things that God created directly and not through processes such as the big bang. (Isaiah 45:6-7) “That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That *there is* none besides Me. I *am* YAHWEH, and *there is* no other; {7} **I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity;** I, YAHWEH, do all these *things*.” (Isaiah 45:11-12) “Thus says YAHWEH, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me. {12} **I have made the earth, And created man** on it. I; My hands; stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.”

From these verses we see that God **directly** made light and darkness, peace and calamity, the earth and man on it, and the heavens and all their host. None of these came into being by random, time consuming processes. God simply commanded and it was done. (Psalm 33:4-9) “For the word of YAHWEH *is* right, And all His work *is done* in truth. {5} He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of YAHWEH. {6} By the word of YAHWEH the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. {7} He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. {8} Let all the earth fear YAHWEH; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. {9} **For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.**”

This means that the earth and the universe that God created was mature and already functioning in all its parts. God did not make the universe and the earth with “apparent age” as if to deceive or confuse us but he made it **mature** in order that it would survive with its complex interdependent systems already functioning properly. As such it necessarily looks old to us. We shall return to this point later on as we deal with objections to this view.

In the same manner God made Eve from the rib of Adam while he slept. Eve was formed while Adam slept and presented to him as a mature adult. God made Adam as a mature adult complete with all the adult knowledge he needed to survive in God’s beautiful earth. Indeed God made all the creatures of the earth by the word of his power, living in already mature and functioning ecological systems. If the creatures of the earth including Adam and Eve had to evolve at the same time that their ecological systems were evolving, they never would have survived. If it is impossible for a particular animal to evolve, think of the impossibility of both male and female evolving at the same time and in the same place so they could re-

produce their species, and their ecological systems in which they lived and on which they depended for survival evolving at the same time. God does not hide his creation from us, it is all there for us to study. As he says, (Isaiah 45:19) I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; I, YAHWEH, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

When astronomers view the heavens using the Hubble telescope, they are not really looking deeper into space. What they are really able to do is see fainter light that is already there. They assume that because it is faint the source of the light is farther away. However, an infinitely powerful God can and did create the stars some 10,000 years ago with their light already impinging on the earth. Astronomical bodies may appear to be millions and billions of light years away from us but God created them that way a relatively short time ago. With our newer and better telescopes we can simply see more of the light from these stars. God created the light that we call starlight and all that is involved with a mature universe and a mature earth.

What does all this mean to us? How shall we apply it to our lives. As God says in this text when we see the work of his hands we must worship YAHWEH and no one else for only YAHWEH is the infinitely powerful creator. Israel's constant problem was that they worshipped images made of metal, stone or wood not the True and Living God. And we too in effect worship a false God when we say that matter is eternal and had no creator or when we say that God created all that is from pre-existing mass.

2

The Habitation of the Earth

The people that inhabit the earth are not the result of random, willy-nilly evolutionary processes taking place over long periods of time. Isaiah informs us (45:18-19) “For thus says YAHWEH, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, **Who formed it to be inhabited:** "I *am* YAHWEH, and *there is* no other. {19} I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; I, YAHWEH, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

God created the earth from nothing to be inhabited by his people. The unbelieving Cyrus was to permit the elect of God to return to Jerusalem to rebuild it. God says of Cyrus, (Isaiah 44:28) *He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."* He raised up Cyrus for the great benefit of his elect, (Isaiah 45:4-5) “For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. {5} I *am* YAHWEH, and *there is* no other; *There is* no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me.”

Indeed God chose us to be in Christ before he even created the earth. (Ephesians 1:4) “—just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” The whole plan of redemption was decreed by God before he made the earth and that means that his only begotten Son would love those whom the Father gave him unto salvation before he even made them. (John 3:16) "For God so loved the **world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” This obviously makes the earth unique in all the universe. Apart from the inhabitants of the earth only the angels, both good and bad, were created. There are no other created beings anywhere else in the universe and the earth alone is the habitation of living things.

Why should we seek to find evidence of life on Mars or anywhere else for that matter but the earth alone? What a waste of time and resources. The expedition to Mars is being sold to us as the means to find out where life came from. Supposedly we even have a piece of a meteorite from Mars containing bacteria fossils. This is very far from being proven but even so the Bible clearly indicates that life forms inhabit the earth alone.

Why are we here? Why did God create the earth to be inhabited. As our catechism states, “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him

forever." God created us and placed us on the earth and chose us to be in Christ for his own glory. (Isaiah 45:8-10) "Rain down, you heavens, from above, And let the skies pour down righteousness; Let the **earth** open, let them bring forth salvation, And let righteousness spring up together. I, YAHWEH, have **created** it. {9} "Woe to him who strives with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork *say*, 'He has no hands'? {10} Woe to him who says to *his* father, 'What are you begetting?' Or to the woman, 'What have you brought forth?'" Do you see that it is the earth alone that brings forth salvation and God created it uniquely and independently for that purpose.

(Romans 9:19-24) 'You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" {20} But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "Why have you made me like this?" {21} Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? {22} *What* if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, {23} and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, {24} *even* us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?'

3

The Purpose of the Earth

People are not saved from an eternity in hell or from a wretched existence on earth as the result of their good works or concern for their fellow man. Nor is their lot improved nor are they saved by government programs or entitlements. (Isaiah 45:21) Tell and bring forth *your case*; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, YAHWEH? And *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a **Savior**; *There is* none besides Me.”

Eight times in Isaiah God refers to himself as a Savior. God created mankind and his own people among them to save them from their sin, to bless them with every spiritual blessing from the heavenly places and to bring glory to himself.

(Isaiah 43:3) “For I *am* YAHWEH your God, The Holy One of Israel, your **Savior**; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.”

(Isaiah 43:11) “I, *even* I, *am* YAHWEH, And besides Me *there is* no **savior**.”

(Isaiah 45:15) “Truly You *are* God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the **Savior!**”

(Isaiah 49:26) “I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, And they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know That I, YAHWEH, *am* your **Savior**, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

(Isaiah 60:16) “You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, And milk the breast of kings; You shall know that I, YAHWEH, *am* your **Savior** And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

(Isaiah 63:8) “For He said, “Surely they *are* My people, Children *who* will not lie.” So He became their **Savior**.”

As Paul put it in the Areopagus in Athens, (Acts 17:24-26) “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. {25} “Nor is He worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. {26} “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to **dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.**”

God made us to save us. He made us to be glorified in us. This is directly contrary to purposeless evolution and "big bang". And how shall we react to this? In the words of Isaiah, (45:22-25) "Look to Me, and be saved, All you **ends of the earth!** For I *am* God, and *there is* no other. {23} I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. {24} He shall say, 'Surely in YAHWEH I have righteousness and strength. To Him *men* shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him. {25} In YAHWEH all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.'"

(Ephesians 3:14-19) "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, {15} from whom the whole family in heaven and **earth** (not Mars or any other celestial body) is named, {16} that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, {17} that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, {18} may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height; {19} to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

The earth was created uniquely and independently as a habitation for his chosen people and it was to the earth alone that God sent his beloved Son to die for their sins.

4

The Antiquity of the Earth

I have sought to establish the proposition that the earth was created by God independently from any other bodies in the universe for the express purpose of providing a habitation for his people. It was to the earth alone that God the Son came to save his people from their sins. This proposition is directly contrary to the science of our day according to which the origin of the earth was the sun and of the sun the “big bang” or *Nebular Hypothesis*. In addition, very long periods of time are required for the formation of the earth and its habitation by living things through evolutionary developmental processes.

There are no texts of Scripture that indicate long ages of time were involved in creation. The impetus for an old-earth view comes from the modern scientific community not the Bible. All of the texts that refer to creation indicate that God created by his command or by fiat. Furthermore, texts such as Psalms 74, 104 and Job 37 inform us that God was directly involved with the minute details of creation and he continues to provide for all his creatures and all their actions. In no case were any of the details of creation left to mere chance or random processes.

(Psalms 104:1-6) Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, {2} Who cover *Yourself* with light as *with* a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. {3} He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, {4} Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. {5} *You who* laid the foundations of the earth, So *that* it should not be moved forever, {6} You covered it with the deep as *with* a garment; The waters stood above the mountains.

(Psalms 104:24-30) O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions; {25} This great and wide sea, In which *are* innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. {26} There the ships sail about; *There is* that Leviathan Which You have made to play there. {27} These all wait for You, That You may give *them* their food in due season. {28} *What* You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. {29} You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. {30} You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

Indeed the Scriptures indicate certain limits to the time period over which YAHWEH created all that is. The creation of Adam is approximately dated by Scripture beginning with Solomon who began his reign in the year 970 BC which is accurate to within several years. We read in 1 Kings 6:1, "And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which *is* the second month, that he began to build the house of YAHWEH." Therefore the Exodus occurred in 1450 BC.

(Exodus 12:40) "Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt *was* four hundred and thirty years." Therefore Jacob entered Egypt in the year 1880 BC at the age of 130 years. The following table summarizes, from the genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11, the period of time between father and son beginning with Jacob back to Adam.

| Name | Greek - Septuagint | Hebrew - Masoretic |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacob | 130 | 130 |
| Isaac | 60 | 60 |
| Abraham | 100 | 100 |
| Terah | 70 or 130 | 70 |
| Nahor | 179 | 29 |
| Serug | 130 | 30 |
| Reu | 132 | 32 |
| Peleg | 130 | 30 |
| Heber | 134 | 34 |
| Shelah | 130 | 30 |
| Cainan | 130 | — |
| Arphaxad | 135 | 35 |
| THE FLOOD | (3340 BC) | (2460 BC) |
| Shem | 100 | 100 |
| Noah | 500 | 500 |
| Lamech | 188 | 182 |
| Methusaleh | 167 | 187 |
| Enoch | 165 | 65 |
| Jared | 162 | 162 |
| Mahalalel | 165 | 65 |
| Kenan | 170 | 70 |
| Enosh | 190 | 90 |
| Seth | 205 | 105 |
| Adam | 230 | 130 |
| Garden of Eden | 5512 BC (5572 BC) | 4116 BC |

The date of Terah is not clear and could be as high as 130 years which would be the case if he left his father's house when Terah, his father, died. The name Cainan only appears in the Septuagint and in Luke chapter 3

which quotes the Septuagint. A Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, the Septuagint, is so called because 70 Jewish scholars contributed to the work over a period of time during the 2nd and 3rd century BC. In addition, as you can see, the Septuagint dating places Adam and the Garden of Eden about 1400 years earlier in history than the Hebrew text.

These data serve to put limits on the date of creation. Many scholars have taken the position that there are gaps in these Genesis genealogies but if such gaps are true the date of the garden of Eden would move back in time to between 10,000 and 13,000 BC depending on the number and length of the gaps theorized and which dating system is used. Very different dates are proposed by the scientific community for ancient mankind such as Cro-Magnon man (25,000 years) and Neanderthal man (110,000 years). Such dates are very debatable. It is not simply that the dating in the Bible differs from that of modern science but a world wide flood would certainly have profoundly affected all superficial artifacts that ancient. The topography of the earth and artifacts of ancient civilizations were affected and changed by the great amount of water that covered them for more than a year. The present geological features of the earth and the remains of ancient civilizations can be no older than 3300 – 4000 BC. Let us take note of the Biblical account of the Flood.

(Genesis 7:17-24) “Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. {18} The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. {19} And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, **and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.** {20} The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. {21} **And all flesh died that moved on the earth:** birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. {22} **All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died.** {23} So He **destroyed all living things** which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. **Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.** {24} And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.”

Is it Hebrew exaggeration to say that all the hills were covered with water or that all flesh died? Is this any different than Luke 2:1 where we read, “And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that **all the world** should be registered.” Clearly Caesar, being merely human, did not govern every person on the face of the earth. Or Colossians 1:23, “if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to **every creature under heaven**, of which I, Paul, became a minister.” Obviously, Paul did not preach the gospel to every human being on earth. Paul being merely human was not capable of doing this.

On the other hand concerning Jesus Paul writes (Colossians 1:16-17) "For by Him **all things** were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things** were created through Him and for Him. {17} And He is before **all things**, and in Him **all things** consist." It is obvious that "all things" means just that because Jesus who is the infinitely powerful creator is capable of creating and maintaining every thing in the entire universe. It is not exaggeration to say that YAHWEH God created all things. Neither is it exaggeration to say that YAHWEH God covered the entire earth with the flood such that "all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died."

The creation of the earth and the destruction of all air breathing living things are both catastrophes caused by the omnipotent God. The natural laws of the universe proceed uniformly unless the all-powerful eternal God intervenes. The infinitely powerful God can and did create all that exists in the space of six literal days. He can and did bring a world-wide flood to pass in a short period of time. He can and did cause the sun to appear to stand still (Joshua 10:12-15). He can and did cause the sundial of Ahaz to reverse itself by 10 degrees (Isaiah 38:7 & 8). He can and will destroy the earth and the universe in one day, the day of judgement, the day when Christ returns. On that day he will create a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:10-13). The new heavens and the new earth will be created as a mature universe into which the elect of God will enter on the day of judgment. Since this is so, why should it be so difficult to see that the first heavens and earth were also created in a short period of time as mature and fully functional entities?

Paul informs us that all the events surrounding the second coming of Christ will happen in a moment of time. (1 Corinthians 15:50-53) "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. {51} Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; {52} **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. {53} For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. In this short period of time every human being who has died will be resurrected. This includes the bodies of both the just and the unjust. (Acts 24:15) "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of *the* dead, **both of the just and the unjust.** (John 5:28-29) "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice {29} "and come forth; **those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**"

We cannot begin to comprehend the enormity of the resurrection. In a moment the bodies of the billions of human beings who have died, most of which were burned up, decomposed in the sea, or simply disappeared over the millennia since their deaths, will be reconstituted with bodies which will never die. All will be judged in a single day. In addition the entire physical universe will be destroyed on the day that the Lord comes as a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10). If this is so why is it so hard for many to believe that the first catastrophe, creation, took place in a short period of time. The infinitely powerful Lord YAHWEH is able to do just that.

5

Objections to a Mature Creation

As stated, the burden of this essay is to develop the view that all creation began as a mature, interdependent, functioning universe in all of its particulars. It is clear from passages such as Psalm 33:9 that creation took place in a short period of time. “For He spoke, and it was *done*; He commanded, and it stood fast.” As has already been noted, this means that the earth and the universe that God created was mature and already functioning in all its parts. God did not make the universe and the earth with “apparent age” as if to deceive or confuse us but he made it **mature** in order that it would survive with its complex interdependent systems already functioning properly. He obviously created the universe with initial conditions and as such it necessarily looks old to us.

In objecting to God’s creation of a mature universe it is said that because most of the mass in the universe is shown to be at distances much greater than 10,000 light years away from the earth, this apparent age of the universe implies that God is deceiving us if He really created mass only 10,000 years ago. The science of astronomy, for example, informs us that a certain star is 25,000 light years away from us for which there is solid evidence. Based on the known speed of light, it would have taken 25,000 years for the light from this star traveling through space to reach the earth. But as we have seen, the genealogies inform us that the forming of the garden of Eden and the six days of creation took place some 10 to 15 thousand years ago. When God created this star on the 4th day its light could be seen on that day on the earth. If Adam had the technology we have today he would have agreed that the star appears to be 25,000 light years away from us. Obviously, for that to be true the star as well as its light was created in a moment of time. God created a universe that was in motion.

God is certainly not deceiving us! It is simply the necessary consequence of sudden creation with initial conditions. When God formed Eve she was presented to Adam as an adult. This cannot mean that God deceived Adam with the fictitious history of Eve’s birth. If God created all that is in a moment of time by the word of his power it would **necessarily** appear to be mature. The same can be said for the movement of the earth’s tectonic plates. Just because the continents appear to be shifting in a manner that suggests they were one land mass 4.5 billion years ago does not mean that it actually happened that way. God could have created the earth some 10 to 15,000 years ago with the plates in an appropriate position.

The Crab nebula is said to be several hundred million light years away from us. This nebula is believed to be the remains of a supernova or explosion of a star that was observed on July 4, 1054. If the death of this star, however, really occurred 200 million years ago so that for 200 million years until 1054, this particular starlight existed **without its source**. If the universe has been in existence for 15 billion years surely the source of most of what we see in our telescopes is no longer there or no longer in the same place it was 15 billion years ago. **We must conclude that the heavens are actually very different than what they appear to be at this present time.** The universe that we observe is therefore not real.

Because the stars appear to be fixed in the heavens they are useful for navigation and for this purpose they were created according to Genesis 1:14 "Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for **signs** and seasons, and for days and years.'" However, the stars are not actually fixed. They are observed to be in motion relative to the earth some moving away from us and others toward us.² The distances between the stars and the earth are so great that even with this motion they appear to be fixed. If God had created the components of the universe in closer proximity to each other they would not have served the purpose for which they were designed.

It has been discovered that anything that has mass when at rest is accelerated toward the speed of light, its mass appears to increase. Indeed, Einstein predicted that it would approach infinity as it approached the speed of light. This growth in mass with velocity has been observed in particle accelerators such as the synchro-cyclotron. If Einstein is right, it is impossible to accelerate space ships to the speed of light or beyond (e.g. warp speed as in *Star Trek*). The only particles that can travel at the speed of light are photons or quanta. These physical entities do not have mass when they are at rest. This consideration leads to the question, how did the stars which have rest mass get to be in their present positions if they can only be accelerated to speeds that are a small fraction of the speed of light? If all the mass in the universe was in one place originally and was dispersed by means of a great explosion how long would it have taken for a star to get to a position 15 billion light years away from us? The velocities inferred from the observed shift in the spectra of certain stars are relatively small. Therefore to the 15 billion years of light travel from a certain distant star must added the inconceivably long time it took for that star to get to that position in space relative to the earth.

Shall we say then that mass is eternal? Shall we say that atomic structure just happened? Shall we say that the kinetic energy represented in

² This is observed as a shift in the frequency of certain spectra in the starlight.

the motion of the stars just happened? Perhaps you will say that God created the original mass that exploded into the star dispersion we see today. But remember that the star positions we see today are the positions of the stars millions and billions of years ago. Fifteen billion years ago this certain star was in the position we observe today. Where is it now? How long did it take for the star to get into the position it was 15 billion years ago. Are we to believe that God created the original mass an inconceivably long time ago and that the earth came into being willy-nilly when a statistical window of opportunity presented itself? Surely the foregoing biblical considerations preclude such a view. How much better to believe that God formed the earth to be inhabited and that He created the universe a relatively short time ago in its maturity for the purposes stated in the Bible. The heavens declare the glory of God who is infinitely powerful.

Recommended Reading

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