

Old Earth Creationism

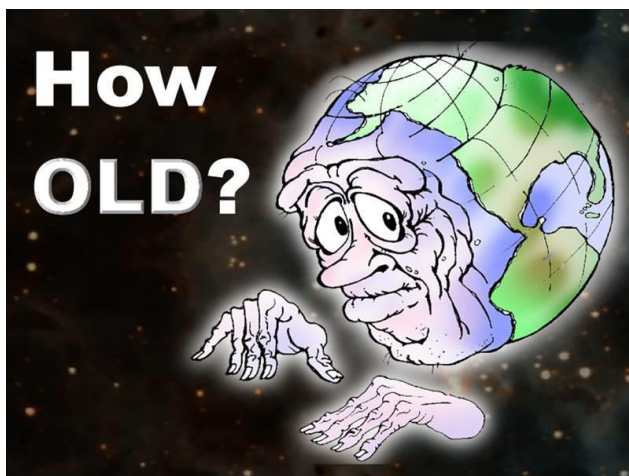
Introduction

The bible does not address the age of the earth or universe specifically. The belief that the earth and universe are only 6,000 years old comes from an improper interpretation of the first 2 verses in Genesis (and many others as well) along with the fact that the genealogies given from Adam to Jesus Christ add up to approximately 4,000 years and then if you add the time from Jesus until the present day, you get approximately 6,000 years total.

When the Genesis scripture is properly interpreted by looking at the original Hebrew language, it definitely supports the possibility of a universe and earth that are much older than 6,000 years. Also, there are many valid scientific findings that support a very old universe and earth.

Before I was saved, I thought Christians were fools because of the fact that many of them openly promoted a 6,000 year old universe. I had come to the conclusion that if the bible says the universe is only 6,000 years old, it is not worth reading. I am an engineer with an extensive scientific background and I know that there are many valid scientific findings and measurements that support a very old universe and earth.

Once I was saved and I became immersed in the Word of God, I realized that scripture could definitely support an old universe and earth interpretation. It is because of this that I felt compelled to write this commentary. I do not believe in evolution, there are also many valid scientific findings that disprove evolution.



Young Earth Creationism

Anyone who believes the universe and earth are only 6,000 years old are known as “young earth creationists” (YEC’s). They seem to believe that their interpretation of scripture is flawless and that any type of science or natural occurrence that does not support a 6,000 year old universe is flawed and incorrect. This group of Christians seems to be causing great division among the Church and will not listen to any reasonable criticisms to their views.

Another problem with the YEC’s is that they bind evolution tightly to anyone who believes the earth and universe are extremely old. This unyielding flaw in their philosophy should be enough for people to realize that these groups are extremely myopic and problematic at their roots. Under no circumstance will they even allow the suggestion that they may not be properly interpreting scripture and that the earth and universe might be very old and that God actually re-formed the earth and created the present living creatures approximately 6,000 years ago.

One final note about YEC’s is that they believe dinosaurs existed alongside people for thousands of years and that Noah took them on the ark when the earth was flooded. I am not going to cover this topic in this commentary but I will say that there is substantial proof that shows dinosaur fossils are much older than Noah’s flood.

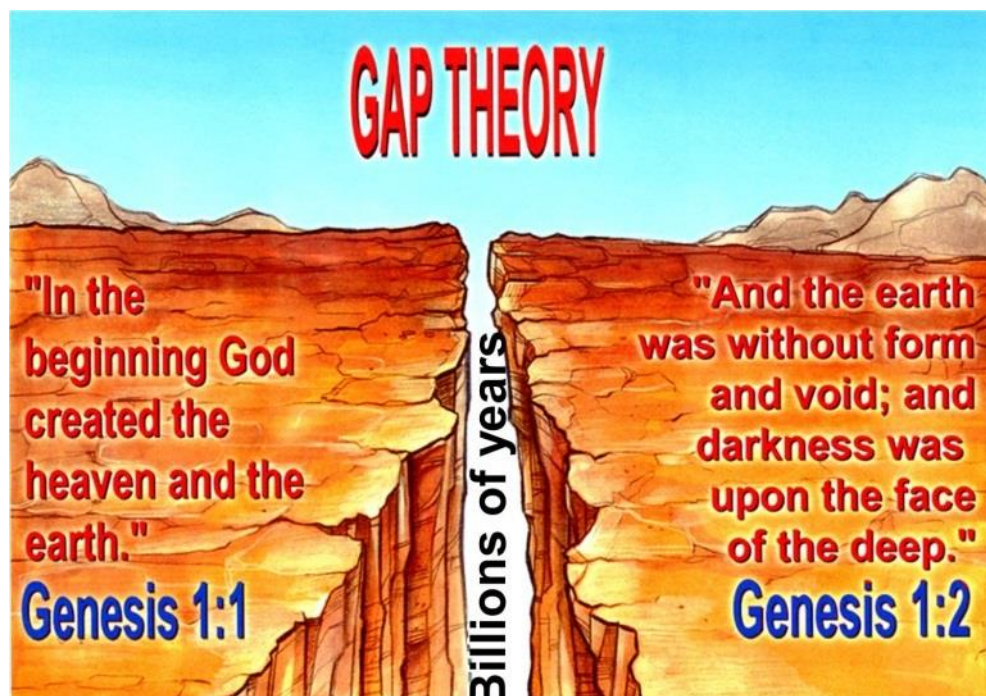


The Gap Theory

Around the turn of the century, there were great advances in science and theological understanding. Dinosaurs bones had been found and documented, geology was being understood as it never had been before, and there were a large number of Christians that were able to get printed copies of the bible as well as Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic references. This greatly enhanced the understanding of scripture verses that had been difficult to understand for many centuries.

At this time it became a common belief that the earth and universe were very old and the 6 days of creation were actually a re-creation because something had happened that made the earth “formless and void”. This is sometimes called the “Gap Theory”. Renowned theologians such as E.W Bullinger and Clarence Larkin documented this understanding in their biblical commentaries in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s.

The term “gap theory” is no longer used because some groups started saying that evolution must have occurred inside the “gap”. This began to cause great confusion and misunderstanding of what the gap theory was about. Christians knew that the bible did not support evolution so people started to think the gap theory was a non-Christian theory. That is why the term “Old Earth Creationist” was coined and is used now.



Old Earth Creationism

Old earth creationism is a scriptural interpretation that believes that God created the heaven and the earth a very long time ago in a perfect and pristine form. All of the prehistoric plant and animal life, including dinosaurs, existed at this time. At some point a catastrophe took place (probably the fall of Lucifer) and the earth became “without form and void”. Another unknown period of time occurred during which there was no light and the earth was totally inundated with water and ice.

It is at this point that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters and the six days of “re” creation began. It is also at this point in Genesis 1:3 that God first speaks or “says” something leading to the conclusion that this is a separate set of Godly works from the original creation of the heaven and the earth of which we are told nothing.

Old earth creationism does NOT support evolution. There is simply a large gap of time between God’s original creation of the heaven and the earth and the 6 days of creation recorded in Genesis that took place approximately 6,000 years ago.



Let me say something before moving on:

“I am not absolutely certain that what I am about to expound on is totally correct. It is however by far the best explanation I have ever heard. It is both scripturally and scientifically sound and if you don’t agree with any parts of my “old earth creationist” theory, that is OK.”

Under no circumstance are Christians supposed to argue about things that are not clearly defined in scripture. The age of the earth and universe is one of these things. The bible does not specifically address the age of the earth and universe, it only addresses the age of mankind based on genealogies. Jesus does not want us to be divided. We are supposed to support each other in love and not cause contentions.

[Mark 3:25] And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Romans makes it very clear that we are supposed to avoid Christians that cause divisions amongst us.

[Romans 16:17] Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

[Romans 16:18] For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.



All scripture is inspired by God; however, this refers to the original Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. Translations such as the King James Version and others are an educated interpretation of the inspired word of God and are not perfect. In order to have the best possible understanding of what God meant in certain circumstances, it is important to refer to the original and inspired words and use their meaning as the basis for a truer understanding.

IN THE BEGINNING

[Genesis 1:1] In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

NOTE: For this scriptural analysis, I will be choosing key words and phrases and pointing out the Hebrew word and meaning associated with them. The Hebrew word will be shown in parentheses after the English word and then the original Hebrew definitions will follow.

In the Beginning (reshiyth): This is the first in place, time, order or rank. Specifically a first fruit, beginning, chief, or principal thing.

This is the beginning of the creation of the universe in the timeless past. Scientists estimate that the universe is approximately 14.5 Billion years old based on measurements of starlight, radiometric dating of crystals, and other valid forms of measurement. Science also tells us that one moment there was nothing then there was a “big bang” that started from a single point (a singularity). This was an instantaneous point of creation. I cannot think of a more magnificent or appropriate way to describe what God did when He first created the universe. I support the big bang theory.



Created (bara): To create absolutely or to bring into existence from nothing.

The use of the word “bara” is to create something out of nothing. It is very important to note the usage of this word as opposed to another word we will encounter (asah which means to make or form something from existing materials).

Heaven (shamayim): To be lofty, the sky alluding to the visible arch in which the clouds move. Outer space or the higher ether where the celestial bodies revolve. The abode of God and the angels.

It is important to note that in the Authorized King James Version (KJV) of the bible, this word, shamayim, is used as a singular “heaven” but in almost every other translation it is used as a plural “heaven(s)”. The way this Hebrew word shamayim (heaven) is interpreted throughout scripture is based on its context. It is referred to as the first heaven if it is the sky, the second heaven if it is outer space, or the third heaven if it is the dwelling place of God or the angels.

I believe that the singular usage (heaven) is correct as in the KJV due to the fact that originally there was absolutely no sin in the universe either physically through Adam or spiritually through Lucifer. I believe that because there was no sin, it was one contiguous heaven rather than three distinctly different heavens. The separation became necessary because Lucifer sinned and corrupted the first and second heavens so they needed to be separated from the third heaven. Please note that this is only speculation but there is something that is going on here with respect to separation and isolation.

The Angels Witnessed the Original Creation

Job tells us that when God created the earth, the angels (sons of God) watched and shouted with joy. Also note in verses 8 through 11 that God controlled a great mass of water that burst forth and limited it to a certain area.

[Job 38:4] "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

[Job 38:5] Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

[Job 38:6] To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

[Job 38:7] When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

[Job 38:8] "Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb;

[Job 38:9] When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band;

[Job 38:10] When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors;

[Job 38:11] When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!'

Lucifer's Kingdom and His Fall

Lucifer was the head of all of the angels until he sinned. Ezekiel refers to him as the "king of Tyre" below.

[Ezekiel 28:12] "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

[Ezekiel 28:13] You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

[Ezekiel 28:14] "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

[Ezekiel 28:15] You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

[Ezekiel 28:16] "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

Notice that he was in Eden, the garden of God, on the holy mountain of God, and he walked back and forth in the midst of the fiery stones. This does not seem to be the same garden of Eden where Adam and Eve were, it is before that. It is unknown what any of these places are but it is probable that they were on the original earth.

Isaiah tells us that Lucifer said he would “ascend into heaven”, “ascend above the heights of the clouds”, and “exalt my throne above the stars of God”. This tells us that he was on earth and was the king because he had a throne.

[Isaiah 14:12] "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

[Isaiah 14:13] For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

[Isaiah 14:14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

We don't know exactly what was going on here but it looks as if Lucifer was given the earth as his kingdom. We don't know how long this time span was but at some point, due to his pride and beauty, he sinned against God. This was the very first sin in the universe and it occurred before Adam and Eve were even created; however, it was done by a spiritual angel and not a man so it had different consequences. Because of this angelic sin, we get the results in verse 2 of Genesis.

Verse 2 (first sentence)

[Genesis 1:2] The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep...

This verse starts by telling us the earth “was” without form and void. This goes against everything we know about God. When God creates something, it is always good and complete.

Was (hawyaw): to exist, that is to be or become, to come to pass, was.

Please note that the translation of the word “hawyaw” can also be “became” or “came to pass”.

So this verse could be translated:

The earth **became** without form and void...

Many commentators say that verse 1 and 2 form a clause that does not promote two separate events instead they are a single event. This understanding is totally incorrect not only because there is no conjunction (and, but, or) between the verses but also because God cannot be tied to a timetable.

I will use a clause of two verses to show that a great gap of time can definitely be fit in between verses that were believed to be consecutive events. Jesus read from Isaiah while in a synagogue in Nazareth and He stopped in between two verses that all of the religious leaders of the day thought were supposed to happen together. We now know that there is at least 2,000 years in between these 2 verses.

[Luke 4:16] So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

[Luke 4:17] And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

[Luke 4:18] "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED;

[Luke 4:19] TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

[Luke 4:20] Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

[Luke 4:21] And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

The original verses in the book of Isaiah are these:

[Isaiah 61:1] "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

[Isaiah 61:2] To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,

====>>>>[JESUS STOPPED HERE]<<<<=====

And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

[Isaiah 61:3] To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Notice that Jesus stopped half way through verse [61:2] because He is not going to proclaim the day of vengeance of our God until His second coming (yet to happen). So it is absolutely incorrect to say that there cannot be a large gap of time in between Genesis [1:1] and genesis [1:2].

Let's now move on to our analysis of what is being said in the first sentence of verse 2.

Without Form (tohu): To lie waste, a desolation of surface, a worthless thing, in vain, or without form.

Void (bohu): To be empty, a vacuity, an undistinguishable ruin, an emptiness or void.



When a Hebrew writer uses the terms “tohu bohu” they are making a very strong statement that what they are describing is a worthless and empty wasteland or ruin. These are definitely not words that would be used to describe a new creation of God.

Let’s look at what Isaiah says about this:

[Isaiah 45:18] For thus says the LORD, 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 the LORD, and there is no other.

Please note that Isaiah uses the word “tohu” when he says “vain” so Isaiah is telling us that God did NOT create the earth tohu but He created it to be inhabited.

To make the situation even worse, we are told that **“darkness was on the face of the deep.”** Let’s examine exactly what this means.

Darkness (choshek): The dark or darkness, misery, destruction, death, sorrow, or wickedness.

Again, this is a very strong word that describes something very bad. It is full of wickedness and sorrow.

Face (paniyim): The face (as the part that turns), against, edge, surface.

Deep (tehom): An abyss (as a surging mass of water), deep, depth.

So this is telling us that there was darkness, wickedness and sorrow upon the face or surface of a surging mass of water. This sounds truly horrible and catastrophic. Peter reminds us of this in a very strong set of verses.

[2 Peter 3:5] For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

[2 Peter 3:6] by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

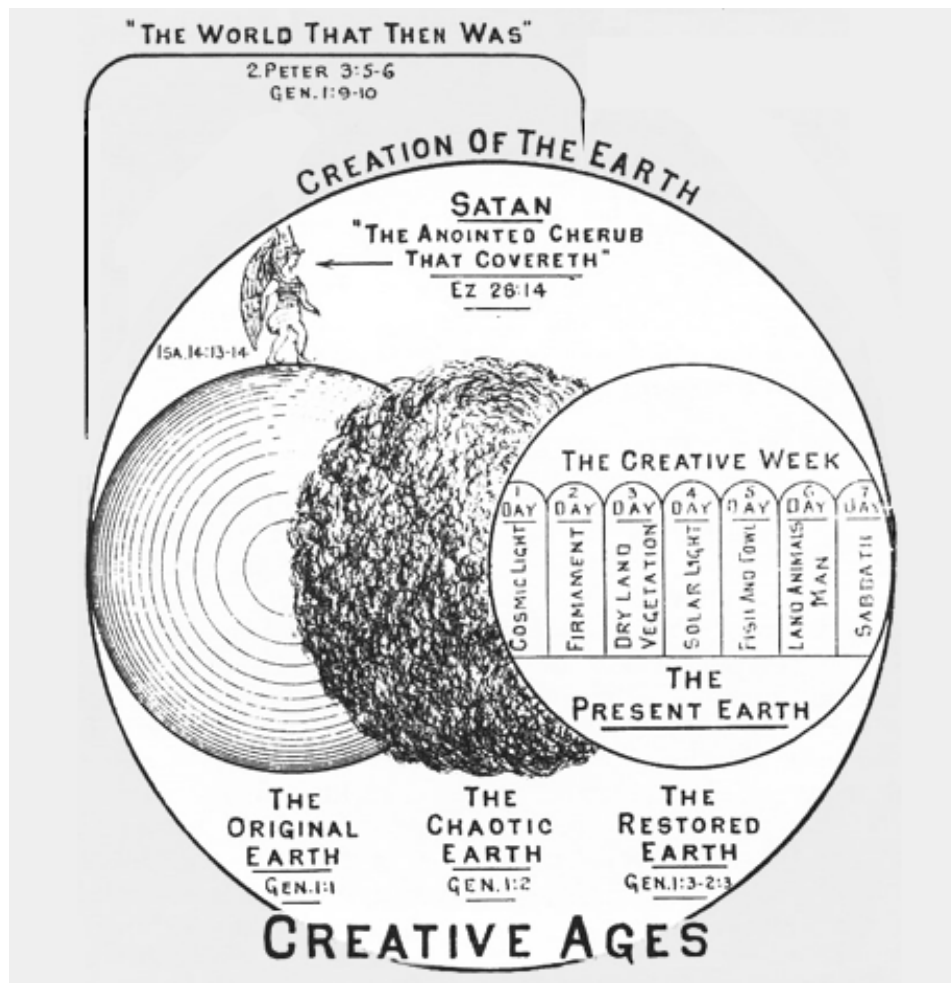
[2 Peter 3:7] But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.



Note how Peter says that “they willfully forget” to say that at his time people were aware of the absolute destruction that had taken place because they had read the scriptures.

What Peter is describing here is not Noah’s flood because the earth did not perish during Noah’s flood, only the living creatures were killed. Also, Peter is describing the earth as if it was a bobber in the water “standing out of the water and in the water”.

It is believed that this was a judgment that was brought upon the earth by God when Lucifer rebelled.



Let's do a quick review of what we just determined before we start into the wonderful 6 days of work that God is about to do.

- 1) In the beginning (approximately 14.5 Billion years ago) God created the heaven and the earth in a perfect and pristine form. This may have been accomplished through a "big bang" of original creation or something out of nothing. There was no sin in the universe yet.
- 2) Lucifer was given authority to rule over the earth.
- 3) Lucifer rebelled (sinned) and God passed judgment upon Lucifer and his kingdom (the earth) causing it to become "without form and void" or a desolate wasteland.

There was another indeterminate span of time which we know as the ice age(s) and then the Spirit of God comes to "fix" the creation.

DAY 1

This is when the 6 days of creation that encompass humanity begin.

Verse 2 (second sentence)

[Genesis 1:2] ...And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Spirit (ruach): A wind or breath, a sensible (or even violent) exhalation, breath, spirit, or tempest.

Hovering Over (rachaph): To brood over, flutter, move, or hover over.

This sentence tells us that the Spirit of God was hovering or fluttering over the waters. This is almost like a parent coddling their crying baby in order to calm it.

[Genesis 1:3] Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

This is the first time God speaks. He says “let there be light”. he does not create the light, he allows it to “be”. This is necessary because of the darkness that is covering everything. This is not the sun because that is not “made” until the forth day. This is in essence allowing light to shine again in a place that has been overwhelmed by darkness.



[Genesis 1:4] And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

[Genesis 1:5] God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Day (yome): A day literally (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), a space of time defined by an associated term, an age.

It is true that the Hebrew term used for day, which is “yome”, can mean a 24 hour day or a longer period of time such as an “age” depending on its context; however, here God gives us specific information that definitely shows us that the “day” used here in Genesis was a 24 hour period.

Note that at the end of each day God makes it clear that there was an “the evening and the morning” and the day was completed. It is said in this fashion because the Hebrews counted their 24 hour days from sunset to sunset. God also says it in this way to make it very clear that these are regular 24 hour days.

Some people try to say that each day is an “age” to try to explain the oldness of the universe but that ignores “the evening and the morning” which changes the meaning of scripture.

DAY 2

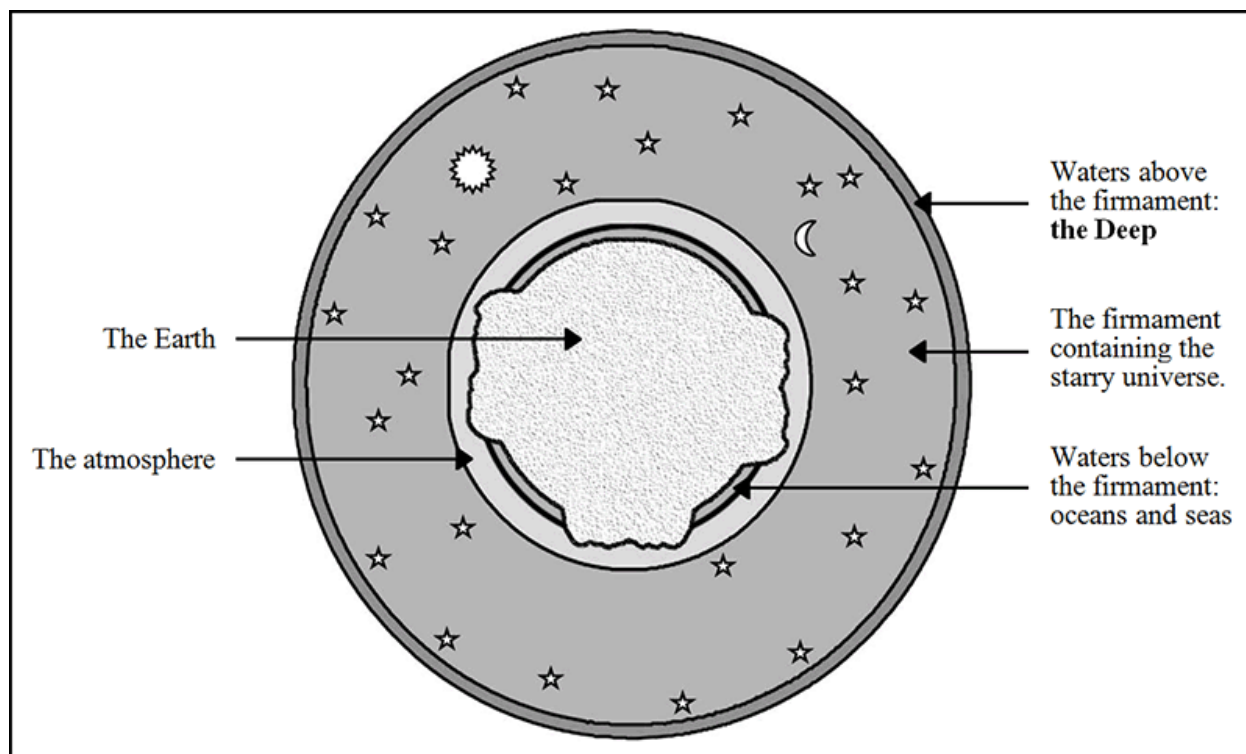
[Genesis 1:6] Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

[Genesis 1:7] Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.

Made (asah): To do or make, to fashion from existing materials, finish, fit, furnish, gather, maintain, make, perform, prepare, put.

Firmament (raqiya): An expanse, that is the visible arch of the sky and outer space during day or night, firmament.

[Genesis 1:8] And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.



This is apparently the first form of division that separates God (in the third heaven) from the rest of the universe which was comprised of the first heaven (sky) and the second heaven (space). Note that God “made” or fashioned (asah) the firmament by rearranging “waters” which already existed.

Something of great note here is that God did not say that it was “good” on this day. Every other day He said “it was good” but not on this day. There is a thought that because he fashioned the sky which contains air, Satan (referred to as the prince of the power of the air) immediately came and took his place in his kingdom again. There is also a theory that because God was creating a “separation” between Himself and the rest of the universe, He did not think it was good.

[Ephesians 2:2] in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

DAY 3

[Genesis 1:9] Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

[Genesis 1:10] And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

[Genesis 1:11] Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

On this day, God gathered the water on the earth (below the heavens) together and allowed dry land to show. He also commanded that the earth “bring forth” seed based vegetation. This is very interesting because it seems that the seeds were already on the earth but they were just dormant. We know through science that seeds can last a very long time and endure freezing temperatures without being negatively affected.



[Genesis 1:12] And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[Genesis 1:13] So the evening and the morning were the third day.

DAY 4

[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;

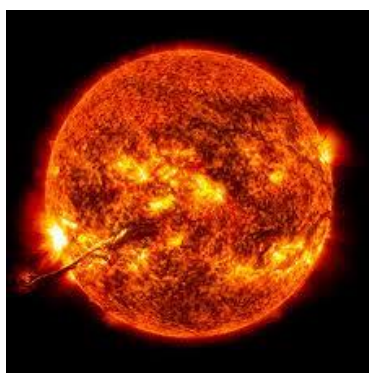
[Genesis 1:15] and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

[Genesis 1:16] Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

[Genesis 1:17] God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,

[Genesis 1:18] and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

[Genesis 1:19] So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.



Here God is fashioning (asah) the sun, moon, and stars. He is not creating (bara) them because they already existed. Notice that God says that they are for “signs and seasons, and for days and years.” This is just incredible that God gave us these “heavenly bodies” not just for light but also so we could keep track of time.

It is also of great interest to note that they are for “signs”. God makes it clear that Christians should not dabble in the mystical arts of divination, sorcery, witchcraft, etc. but this seems to infer that there is information contained within the stars and planets that can be interpreted as signs of impending events.

DAY 5

Now. on the fifth day, we have a true act of creation (bara). God created all the kinds of creatures that live in the water as well as that fly in the air. This is actually the first time God has created anything “absolutely” or from nothing during the six days of creation.



[Genesis 1:20] Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens."

[Genesis 1:21] So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[Genesis 1:22] And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

[Genesis 1:23] So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

It is too much to cover in this commentary; however, I would like to note that God refers to living things by their "kind". This is a key point that proves evolution is impossible. The Hebrew word used for "kind" is "meen" which means "species". This is very important because this defines the uncrossable genetic lines that science has proven to be consistent with scripture.

Kinds and Species

It is impossible for two "kinds" or "species" to have "valid" offspring. That is, in most cases two different species cannot mate; however, in the rare case that something does cross these genetic boundaries, its offspring is always infertile making it impossible for another generation to be conceived.

An example of this is when a horse is cross bred with a donkey and it makes a mule. The mule is always infertile and cannot breed. A mule has 63 chromosomes which results from the mixture of the horse's 64 chromosomes and the donkey's 62 chromosomes. This is always a "one shot deal" and there are no recorded cases of a fertile mule.



Each “kind” is its own unique species and no “kind” can ever successfully mate with another “kind” to form a new self sustaining species. Please refer to my commentary called “Creation vs. Evolution” for an in depth look at why the theory of evolution was proven to be incorrect many years ago.

We should also remember that when the book of Genesis was written by Moses, there was no understanding of genetics, DNA, or cross breeding issues. This shows us that God is in complete control of everything and He was giving us these hints long before we were able to truly understand the concepts.

DAY 6

This is the sixth and final day of the creation process that encompasses humanity. During this day, God begins by making or forming (asah) the beasts of the earth, cattle, and all creeping things (insects, etc.). He forms them all out of existing materials.

[Genesis 1:24] Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so.

[Genesis 1:25] And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

[Genesis 1:26] Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

[Genesis 1:27] So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Finally, God does His most glorious work and He makes man in His own image. Notice that God both “makes” (asah) man (verse 26) and He “creates” (bara) man (verse 27). To understand exactly what is happening

here, we need to jump ahead to the specific record of the creation of Adam and Eve given in chapter 2 of Genesis.

[Genesis 2:7] And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

We can see here that God “formed” man from the dust of the ground and then “breathed” the breath of life into him. The word “formed” is a special word that shows great care and love being used such as a potter making a vessel.

Formed (yatsar): To make by squeezing into shape, to mold into a form especially as a potter.

It seems as if the creation (bara) is giving us a “soul” or our conscience which is the thing that separates us from every other living creature.



[Genesis 1:28] Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Fill (mala): To fill or be full of, furnish, gather, or replenish.

The term “fill” being used in verse [1:28] is more appropriately translated as “replenish” as per the KJV translation. This infers that the earth had previously been filled with life (i.e. dinosaurs and prehistoric insects, etc.).

[Genesis 1:29] And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

[Genesis 1:30] Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

[Genesis 1:31] Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

DAY 7 REST

[Genesis 2:1] Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

[Genesis 2:2] 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.

[Genesis 2:3] Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Please realize that God was not tired and did not need to rest physically. This is more of a "ceasing" from work.

[Genesis 2:4] This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

History (toledah): The descent of, family, history, or generations.

Notice that verse [2:4] summarizes exactly what was just described. It tells us that this is the "history" or the "generations" of the heavens and the earth for both when they were created (bara) and made (asah). This tells us that these were two very distinct time periods

Summary of Genesis Chapter 1

In The Beginning

- God created the heaven and the earth in pristine form
- Lucifer was given the earth as his kingdom
- Lucifer rebelled against God and the earth became a dark and chaotic wasteland.

Day 1

- The Spirit of God hovered over the dark and chaotic wasteland.
- God allowed light to shine upon the earth again.
- God divided the light from the darkness.
- God saw that the light was good.
- God called the light day and the darkness night.

Day 2

- God made a firmament to divide the waters under the firmament from the waters above the firmament.
- God called the firmament heaven.

Day 3

- God separated the waters from the dry land.
- God allowed plant life to come forth from seeds.
- God saw that it was good.

Day 4

- God fashioned the sun, moon and stars into the firmament.
- God saw that it was good.

Day 5

- God created all water creatures and all birds.
- God blessed them and said to be fruitful and replenish the earth.
- God saw that it was good.

Day 6

- God made all the cattle, beasts of the earth, and creeping things.
- God created/made mankind in His own image.
- God blessed them and said to be fruitful and replenish the earth.
- God gave them dominion over over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.
- God saw that everything He had made was very good.

Day 7

- God ceased from His work and rested.
- God blessed the 7th day and sanctified it.

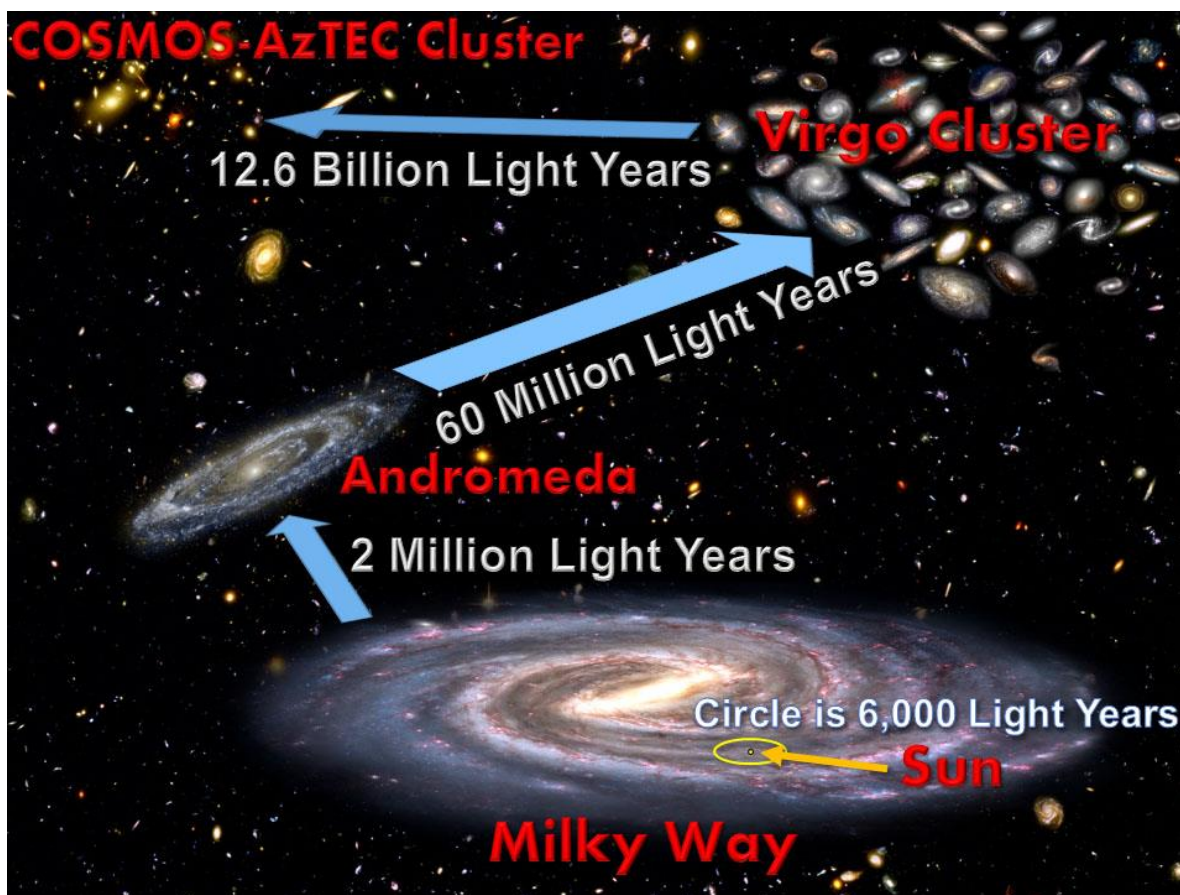
Things That Support an Old Universe and Earth

While it is definitely true that God created Adam (and Eve) with some advanced age (they were created as adults not as babies) as well as animals and plants, it seems unlikely that God would try to “fool” everyone into thinking the universe and earth were old if they were not by making age an integral part of nearly everything we can view and measure in the universe.

There are many valid scientific realities that point very strongly to an old universe and earth. Here is a list of just a few of the strongest evidences that support a very old universe and earth.

Starlight

Scientists have very accurate ways to measure the distance of stars from our planet and each other. A light year is the distance light can travel in a year. Based on observation and measurement, the universe is estimated to be over 14.5 billion years old.



Mountain Ranges

Based on the shape of mountain ranges, estimates can be made as to how old they are. The more jagged a range is, the newer it is and the rounder the mountains are, the older they are. These are only “ballpark” estimates but it takes hundreds of thousands to millions of years for mountain ranges to go from high and pointy to low and rounded.



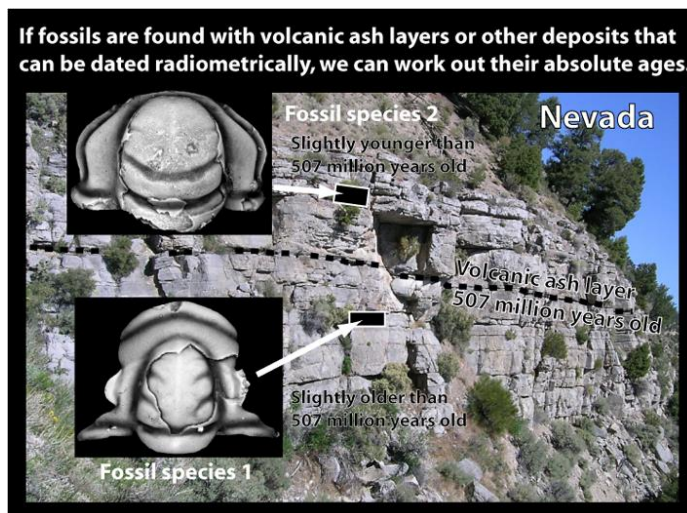
The Himalayas are Newer and More Jagged



The White Mountains are Older and Rounder

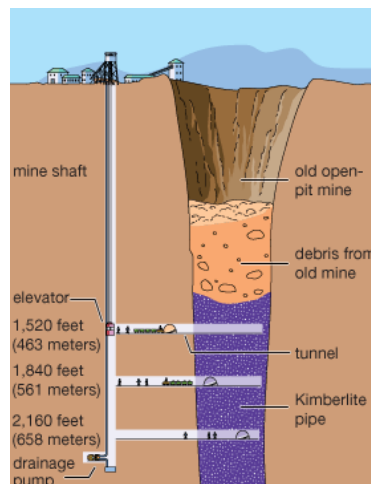
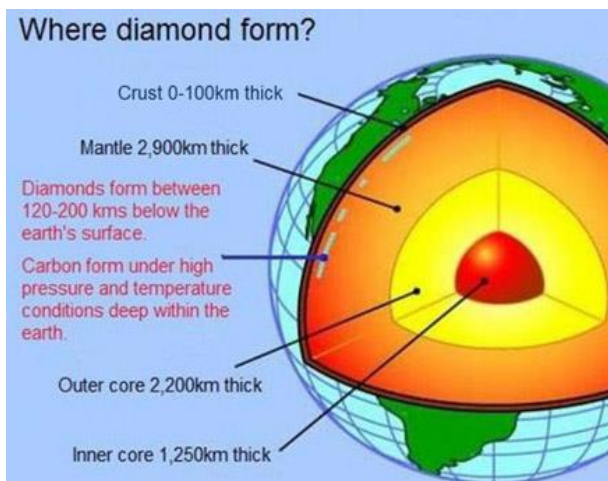
Radiometric Isotope Dating

Radiometric isotope dating is based on the fact that certain elements have a specific “half life”. If the amount of a particular isotope of a known element can be measured in a sample, an estimate as to how old it is can be approximated. Depending on what is being tested and the available samples, radiometric isotopic dating can give descent “ballpark” estimates of the ages of rocks, crystals, and fossils.



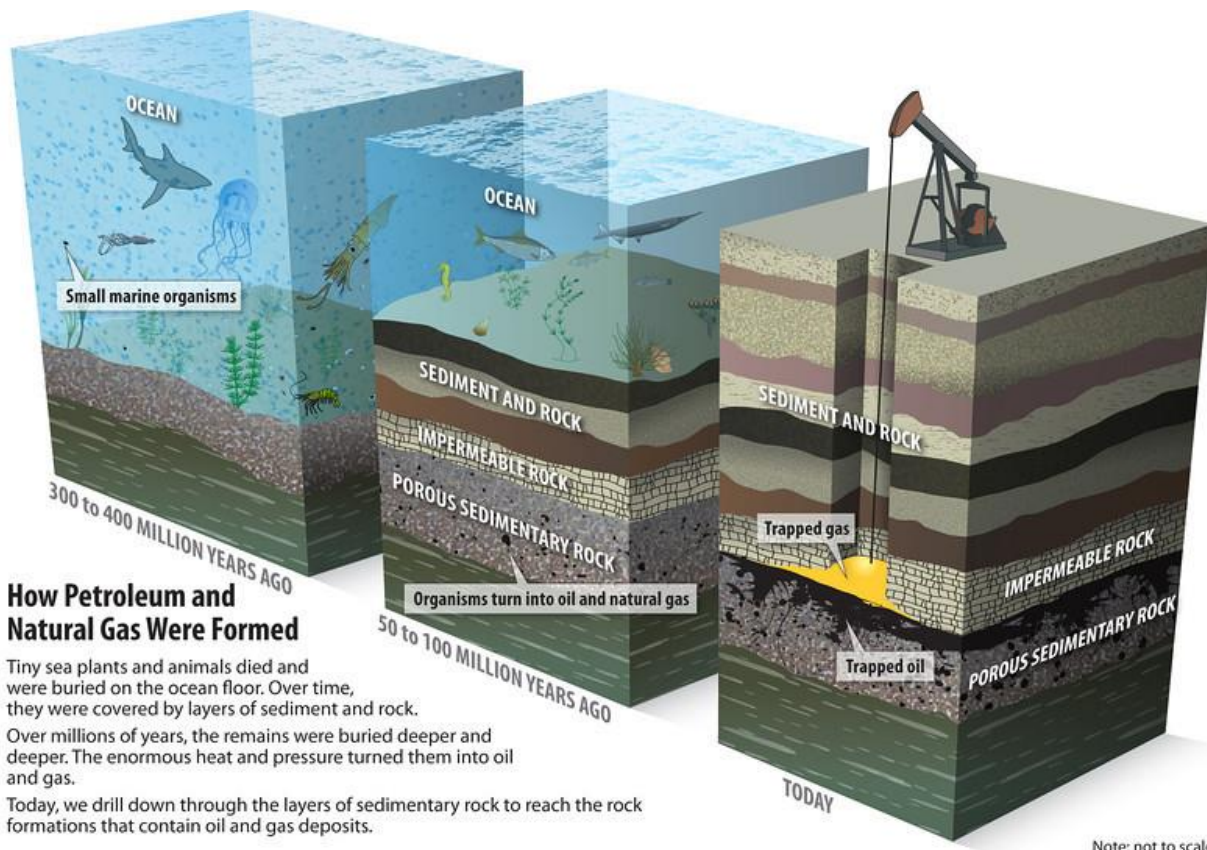
Diamonds

Diamonds are formed deep below the surface of the earth when carbon is compressed under high temperatures for very long periods of time. It is estimated that it takes from hundreds of millions to billions of years for a diamond to form.



Fossil Fuels

Fossil fuels were formed when plants and animals died millions of years ago and were buried. Over millions of years, heat and pressure turned them into gas and oil that we extract from deep in the earth today.



How Petroleum and Natural Gas Were Formed

Tiny sea plants and animals died and were buried on the ocean floor. Over time, they were covered by layers of sediment and rock.

Over millions of years, the remains were buried deeper and deeper. The enormous heat and pressure turned them into oil and gas.







Today, we drill down through the layers of sedimentary rock to reach the rock formations that contain oil and gas deposits.

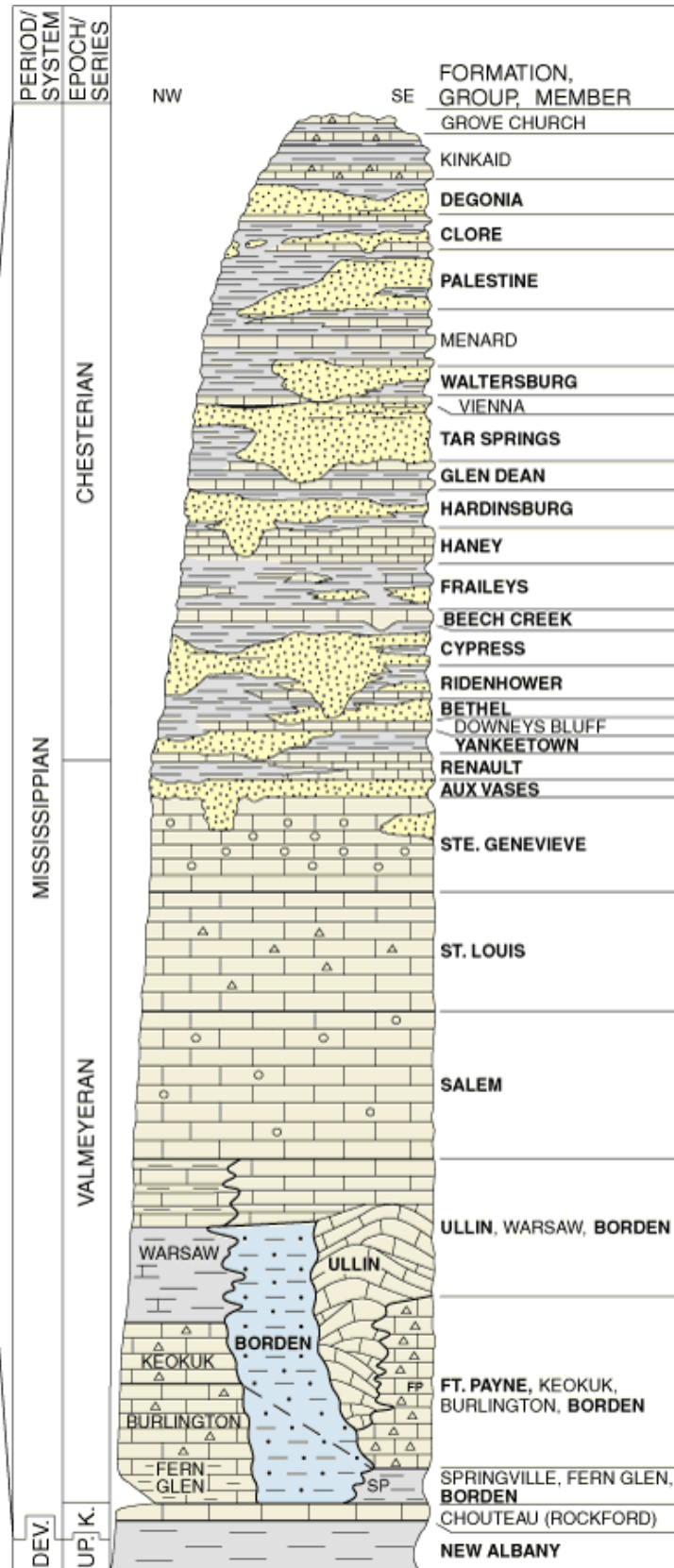
Geological Strata Column

The geological strata column is the layering that is very clearly visible in the earth's surface and crust. Based on radiometric dating of particular rocks found in particular layers, the age of each layer can be estimated. There are hundreds and hundreds of very distinct layers that take tens of thousands of years each to form. In certain parts of the earth, these layers become visible due to water erosion over very long periods of time.

Just as an eye opener, Noah's flood occurred approximately 4300 years ago. This would put anything that died and was covered with sediment into layers very near the top. Noah's flood could not have possibly killed the dinosaurs whose fossils are many layers below the surface.

ERA	PERIOD	MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO
Cenozoic	Quaternary	1.8
	Tertiary	
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	65
	Jurassic	144
	Triassic	208
	Permian	250
Paleozoic	Pennsylvanian	286
	Mississippian	320
	Devonian	360
	Silurian	408
	Ordovician	438
	Cambrian	505
Precambrian		540

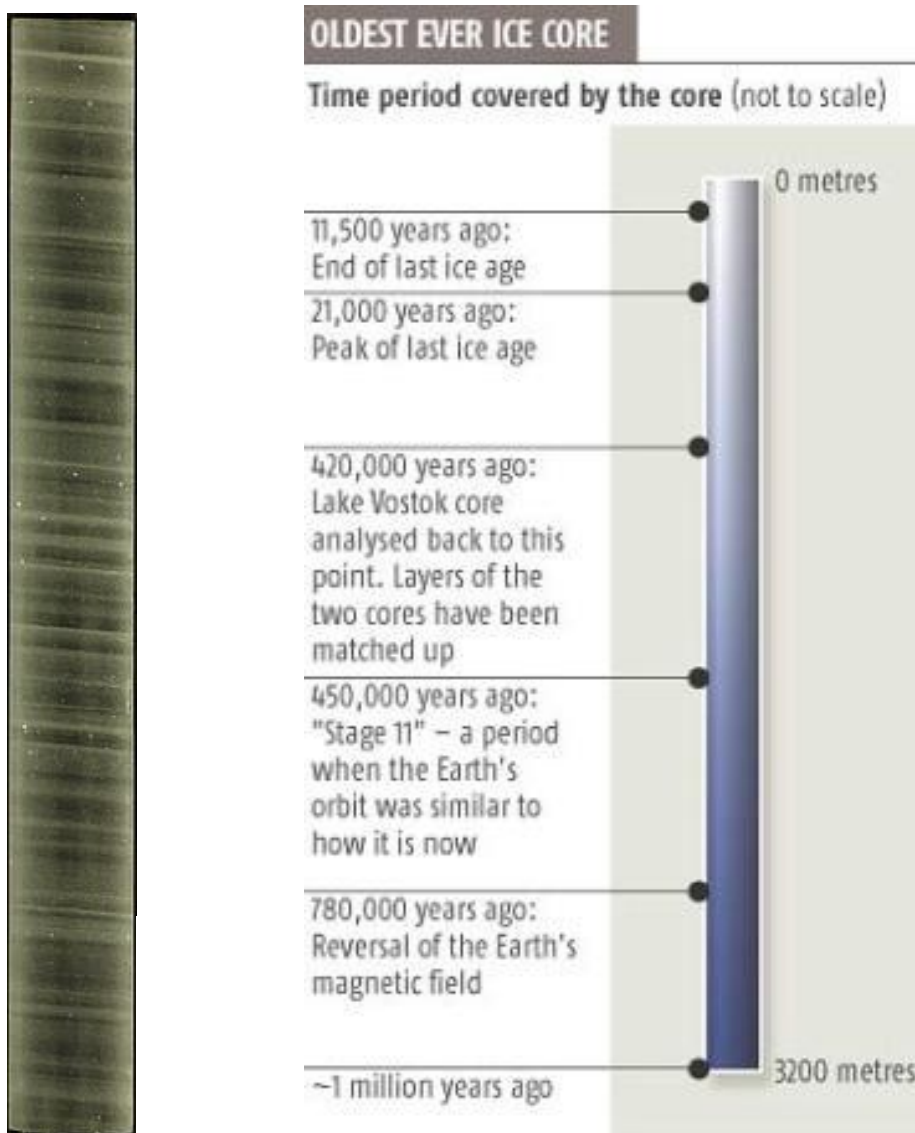
-  sandstone
-  siltstone
-  shale
-  limestone
-  cherty
-  oolitic



Geological Strata Column Showing Layers and Ages

Ice Cores

Ice core samples is a very good way of determining the age of ice sheets. Every year the ice on the surface that is exposed to the sun melts a little and it also has dust dropped onto it. The next winter, snow falls on the surface and it packs into another layer of ice covered with dust. This occurs over and over again creating very deep layering that permeates all the way through ice sheets. By drilling down into the ice sheets and extracting a core, scientists can see what the atmosphere was like in times gone past by analyzing the dust that was trapped in each layer. There are ice cores that have been extracted that are estimated to be as old as 750,000 years.



Ice Core Section Showing Annual Layers (on left)

Conclusion

I hope that this commentary has shed some light on what the bible says as well as what good science can tell us. There are forms of science that are foolishness based on speculation such as evolution; however, there are also valid and fact based fields of science that strongly support the bible.

It is important that people realize that the bible is not a straight forward read. If everything in the bible was clear, there would be no cults. Certain things in the bible are extremely complicated. A non-Christian reading the bible may have absolutely no comprehension of anything meaningful unless God wants them to have an understanding.

Once a person is saved and has the Holy Spirit, then the incredible work of the living word of God can begin. At first, Christians can only understand basic things. As a Christian matures and allows the Holy Spirit to guide and lead them, many wonderful scriptural mysteries can be unlocked.

Please remember that we are not supposed to argue about things that are not clearly stated in the bible such as the age of the universe. We are supposed to Love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves.

We are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God. Because of this, the only way to heaven is through faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Jesus willingly gave His life as a payment for our sins. He offers the free gift of salvation to anyone who will ask Him for forgiveness from their sins and accept Him as the Lord and Savior of their life.

