

Evangelizing from a Young-Earth Position Mount Calvary Baptist Church Sunday School, January 2007

“We know that balls, when dropped, fall down. We do know that the earth is round and not flat. We do know how electromagnetism works, and we do know that the earth is billions of years old, not thousands.”

-Lawrence M. Krauss (physicist), Case Western Reserve University, New York Times, April 20, 2002.

Old-Earth Evidence

1. References

From an evolutionist, the standard work *The Age of the Earth* by G. Brent Dalrymple (1994).

From an old-earth creationist, *Christianity and the Age of the Earth* by Davis A. Young (1988).

From the evangelical Reasons to Believe (www.reasons.org), *Creation and Time* by Hugh Ross (1994)

Major anti-creation website: www.TalkOrigins.org

2. Astronomy

Old Earth	Young Earth
Stars are millions of light years away.	So God created the light on the way to the earth.
But stars explode. They can't explode <i>before</i> creation. Otherwise, most of astronomy is just a big illusion.	But God could do that if He wanted to, plus the Humphreys' model is one possible answer.

“Perhaps the most commonly used explanation is that God created light ‘on its way,’ so that Adam could see the stars immediately without having to wait years for the light from even the closest ones to reach the earth. While we should not limit the power of God, this has some rather immense difficulties. It would mean that whenever we look at the behavior of a very distant object, what we see happening never happened at all.”

- *How can we see distant stars in a young universe?* (www.AnswersInGenesis.org)

“Unfortunately the situation in astronomy is not as good. As with biology and geology, astronomy has become permeated with evolutionary assumptions and conclusions. Unlike those other disciplines, there is no overall theory or, if you will, paradigm, of astronomy from a creationist perspective...”

“On the other hand the white hole cosmogony of Humphreys is a very detailed scientific model that seeks to answer the light travel time question. As with the big bang or steady state theories, this model assumes modern relativity theory, but with a different set of initial conditions for the universe... The important point is that through relativistic effects, time proceeds at very different rates in different parts of the universe. While only a few thousand years elapsed near and on the earth, billions of years could have elapsed elsewhere.”

- Danny Faulkner, *The Current State of Creation Astronomy* (www.ICR.org)

3. Geology

Old Earth	Young Earth
Radioactive elements provide a natural “clock,” and show an ancient universe.	Only if you know initial conditions, rates, and that there is no contamination or leakage.
We can infer initial conditions from rock characteristics and isochrones; rates are more stable than any young-earth dating scheme; contamination and leakage can be detected with multiple dating techniques.	See the ICR RATE group results.

“It appears that much larger quantities of nuclear decay have occurred in most nuclear processes than would be expected for a few thousand years of radioactivity at the currently observed rates.”

- Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth (ICR)

Young-Earth Evidence

1. References

The Young Earth by John D. Morris (1994)
Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth (Volumes 1,2), edited by Larry Vardiman et. al. (2000,2005)
Thousands, not Billions by Donald Deyoung (2005)

2. The Bible

Tracing genealogies places Adam at around 4000 BC
“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God.” Heb 11:3 (NASB)
Note: Unlike the issue of intelligent design (teleology), the Bible doesn't emphasize this issue.

3. A dynamic universe

Earth's magnetic field is decreasing (claimed to oscillate).
Comets are gradually vaporized, stars changing, planets cooling.
The atmosphere, crust, and oceans are changing.
Note: These types of proof are controversial and depend on extrapolating rates in the past. But our world is changing, not stable, and many aspects cannot have continued as they are now for long eons of time.

4. Evidence of catastrophism compared to modern geological conditions

- Fossil graveyards (Karoo, South Africa; Valley of the Whales, Egypt)
- Washington Scablands (carved by water up to 1000 feet deep, moving up to 50 mph)
- North American Midcontinental Rift
- Giant lava flows (flood basalts)

Up to a mile thick, covering hundreds of thousands of square miles
Columbia River (USA), Deccan (India), Siberia

Note: There are challenges in fitting all these catastrophes into a Creation model as well, but they illustrate that the Earth's past is far different from conditions today and that dramatic catastrophes have occurred.

Attempts at Reconciliation

1. Theistic Evolution

God started it (the Big Bang) or God used evolution.
Liberal view irreconcilable with literal interpretation of Genesis.
Wheaton College, Catholic Church

2. Gap theory

Billions of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.
Seems to be exegetically possible.
Dr. Bob Jr., C. I. Scofield, and many fundamentalists of their era accepted it.
Doesn't explain fossils or distant starlight; has few supporters today.
See the official BJU statement at www.bju.edu.

3. Day-age or progressive creation

Contrary to literal reading of Genesis.
Millions of years of animal death before the fall.
Christianity and the Age of the Earth by Davis A. Young (1988).
Supported by Hugh Ross and the *Reasons to Believe* organization.

Young Earth Answers

- Apparent age, an inevitable consequence of creation.
How old did Adam look the day after creation?
This doesn't apply to post-creation events including flood rocks and fossils.
- The Fall, marring and obscuring the original creation.
The fall had scientific, not just spiritual, consequences.
- The Flood, dramatically altering the earth's geology and climate.
Much of the earth's crust is probably flood or post-flood, not original creation.
- Miracles, which are scientifically inexplicable.
“With God nothing shall be impossible” Luke 1:37
- Limited human knowledge.