

Chapter 6

The Age of the Earth and the Age of Man

How old is the universe? How long has the earth been here? The Bible says that “in the _____ God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). When was this **beginning**? When did this wonderful work of **creation** take place? Hundreds of years ago? Thousands of years ago? Millions of years ago? Billions of years ago (as the evolutionists now believe)? What does the Bible teach about the age of the heavens and the earth?

Problems in Determining Age

You might be curious about how old your school building is. When was that school built? Your Grandfather might say, “I remember when that school was built. I was 18 years old when that building was constructed.” Grandfather could tell you the very year that your school was built. He was a witness.

The problem with determining the age of the earth is that no one was alive to witness this great event. A scientist might say, “The earth is four or five billion years old.” This is what he believes, but does he really know this? Was he there when it happened? Does he know anyone who witnessed this event?

The Lord Jesus was present when the world was first made because He was the Creator (John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Eph. 3:9). We can fully trust what He says about the creation of the world. The angels also witnessed the creation of the earth (Job 38:4-7). But there were no people to witness this event.

Suppose you were to enter an abandoned house (no one is home) and you see a candle burning on the table.



The candle is 5 inches tall. As you watch this candle, you notice that it is burning at a rate of 1 inch every hour. **How long has that candle been burning?** _____

Suppose that someone told you that the candle was originally 10 inches tall. **How long has the candle been burning?** _____

To answer how long the candle was burning, you must know the **starting point**. You must know how tall the candle stood **in the beginning**. [Note: you also must assume that the candle has always burned at the same rate from the time it was first lit. If the candle was made so that it was thinner at the top, then it would have probably burned at a faster rate at the beginning, perhaps at a rate of 2 inches per hour. These factors are difficult to determine if you did not see the candle when it was first lit.]

In this same house you also notice a clock on the wall. It is an 8-day windup clock (if you wind it up all the way, it will run for 8 days). Soon after you enter the house this clock stops ticking. **How long has the clock been ticking?** You might think that the clock has been ticking for 8 days, but this may not be the case. Perhaps someone entered the house the day before and wound it up only partially. If so, then it has only been running for one day! Here again, you need to know **the starting point**. You need to know when the clock was first wound up and whether or not the clock was wound up all the way. If you assume that the clock was wound up all the way you might be making the wrong assumption.



How can we learn about the **beginning** or the **starting point** of the universe? “Through F _____ we U _____” (Hebrews 11:3). Faith is simply taking God at His Word and believing what He has said. Our faith is in the **Almighty CREATOR** who was there at the **starting point**. Also God has given us the book of **Genesis** which tells us what the heavens and the earth were like when He created them in the beginning (when God “wound them up” and started them ticking!) We were not there when everything **started** (see Job 38:4), but God the Creator was! Let’s believe what He tells us about the origin of our planet.

The Creation Week

In our study of the DAYS OF CREATION (chapter 4) we learned that the earth was created on Day _____, the sun, moon and stars were created on Day _____, and man was created on Day _____. The earth, the sun, the moon, the stars and man were all created in the same week (Exodus 20:11), and so they are really all the same age! The sun and earth are not billions of years older than man, as evolutionists teach. Actually the earth is only five days older than Adam was! If we know how old the earth is, then we know how old the sun is and we know how long man has lived on the earth. If we know when Adam was created, then we also know how old the earth, sun and moon are! They were all made at the same time, during the six days of the creation week. How long ago was this week of creation? BILLIONS of years? MILLIONS of years? THOUSANDS of years? This is the question we will seek to answer in this lesson.

CREATION WITH AN APPEARANCE OF AGE

When something is created, it may look like it is old, but it is not really old at all. It was just created! Let’s look at some examples:

1. Adam

When God created Adam, did He create a baby and then wait 25 or 30 years for the baby to grow up, or did He create a full grown man (Genesis 2:7,15,20,23,25)? _____

If it were possible for you to see a picture of Adam on Day 6 of creation, he would probably look like a 25

or 30-year old man! Was he really 25 or 30 years old? _____ He was really less than one day old! This seems very strange to us. When we have a birthday party for a one-year-old, we expect to see a small baby. But when Adam had his first birthday, he was a full-grown man even though he was only a year old! Adam was created with **an appearance of age!** He seemed to be much older than he really was.

2. Trees and Mountains

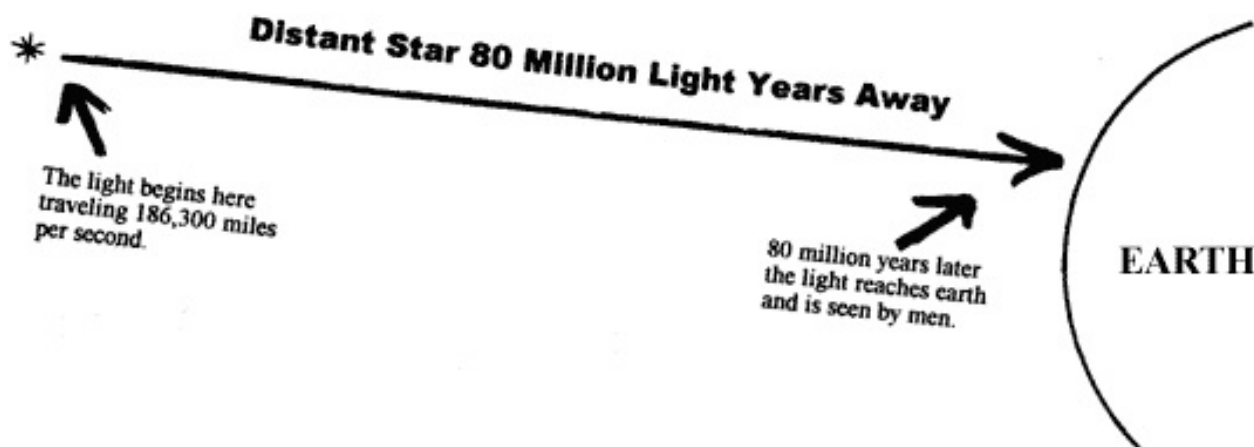
When God created the trees, did He first create a seed and then plant it in the ground and wait for it to grow, or did He create a full-grown tree (see Genesis 1:11)? _____ If a scientist were to observe this tree five minutes after creation, without knowing anything about how that tree started, he might guess that the tree was 100 years old or older. Was it really this old? _____ How old was it? _____ It seemed to be 100 years old because it was created full grown and thus it has **an appearance of age.** The same is true with the mountains. If a scientist were brought to the scene one day after the mountains were created, he might look at those majestic peaks and assume that those mountains had been there for centuries or for thousands of years. But his assumption would be wrong because they had just been created. Those mountains were really only one day old even though they looked much older.

3. The Chicken and the Egg

Which came first, the hen or the egg (Genesis 1:21)? This question has puzzled many people but the Bible gives a clear answer. All the animals were created fully mature. God first made the hen, and then the hen laid the eggs! The person who does not believe the Bible has a problem answering this question! If the egg came first, who laid it? If the hen came first, who hatched it? But if the **CREATOR** created it as a full grown adult hen, then there is no problem! The Bible gives us the **starting point.** God started with the chicken. The first egg came later!

4. The Light From Stars

Think of a star that is 80 million light years away! That means that the light now being produced or radiated by that star would take 80 million years to reach the earth so we could see it through our giant telescopes. Even the light from the sun, our nearest star, takes several minutes to reach the earth.



Today we can see the light from stars that are millions of light years away. Does this mean that the earth must be millions of years old? Not at all. First, we must remember that a LIGHT YEAR is a measurement of *DISTANCE*, not a measurement of *TIME*. When an astronomer tells us that a star is a certain number of light years away, he is telling us how far away the star is (DISTANCE), not how old the star is or how long the star has existed (TIME). Second, the Bible tells us in Genesis 1:17 that God set the stars in the sky to give light upon _____ . Do you think the Creator made the stars and then waited millions of years for their light to reach the earth? No, He not only created the stars, but He also made it possible for the light from these far-away suns to shine upon the earth as soon as they were created. When Adam looked up at the heavens at night, he could see the stars and all the wonders of the heavens (Psalm 19:1). Later we are told that Abraham also had a clear view of the heavenly bodies (Genesis 15:5).

5. Soil and Sand

Trees and plants need soil in which to grow. If we were to look at soil today, we would assume that the soil had a past history! The soil was probably once hard rock and through the years the forces of nature (erosion, the effects of weather, decaying organic matter, etc.) broke up the rock into smaller pieces until finally we have soil! Do you think God created soil for the first trees and plants, or did He just create rocks and then wait thousands of years for the rocks to break down into soil? Did God create sand, or did He wait thousands of years for the action of the waves and weather to produce sand? [Most sand consists of quartz grains derived from the weathering of granite or other siliceous igneous rocks.] God equipped the early earth with some wonderful sand beaches right from the beginning!

6. The Creation of a Rock

What if you had the power and ability to create a rock! Of course, we know that only the Almighty Creator can do this, but let us suppose that you were able to create a rock out of nothing. Suppose you were to take this newly created rock to a geologist. He would study the rock and analyze it and probably tell you that it was millions of years old! Would he be correct in saying it was that old? _____ The rock was just created, and it was created with an appearance of age.

A Young Earth With An Old Look

If you could look at the earth immediately after it was created, it would have an **appearance of age**, and it would seem that the trees and the mountains and the oceans and the beaches and the rocks and the sun had all been around for a long time! But the fact is, they all were just created. Is God trying to trick us and deceive us by creating things with an appearance of age? No! God has told us all about His methods of creation, and anyone (including scientists) can read the book of Genesis and learn the truth about Creation! God is not deceiving men, but men are deceiving themselves when they refuse to take the Bible seriously. They refuse to believe God and take Him at His Word. Just as a magician would not be tricking anyone if he carefully told his audience how he did his tricks, so God is not deceiving anyone since He has fully explained how He created the world.

The Creator At Work 2000 Years Ago!

Many years ago (approximately 2000 years ago) the CREATOR actually walked on this earth and people were able to see a public demonstration of His creation methods as they watched His amazing miracles! Let us consider some of these miracles:

1. Water Turned to Wine

In John 2 we learn about our Lord's first miracle which took place at a wedding feast. The Lord told His servants to fill six waterpots with water (verses 6-7). Each waterpot held about 20 or 30 gallons of water! So by His creative power the Son of God transformed about 150 gallons of water into unfermented wine.

Soon after this the ruler of the feast tasted the wine. Did he know that a miracle had just taken place (see verse 9)? _____ He probably assumed that the wine had been kept and stored somewhere and that it had come from the juice of grapes that had once been on a grapevine. These grapes grew on the vine and then one day when they were ripe, men picked them and then squeezed the juice out of them. But the ruler of the feast was wrong! This wine had never come from grapes and there was never any vine! This wine was produced by the Word of an omnipotent CREATOR! Do you think that Jesus really needed water to perform this miracle? _____ By His creative power, the Lord Jesus changed the water into the best grape juice ever tasted by human tongues.

2. The Storm Stilled

Read Luke 8:22-25. Here is another miracle performed by the CREATOR. Instantly the Sea of Galilee was calmed and the storm ceased (verse 24). Suppose a man were to fly over this lake in his helicopter soon after the seas were calmed (of course we know that there were no helicopters in those days). He would look down and see this calm, peaceful lake. Do you think he would ever guess that just minutes before there had been a raging storm on this lake? _____ Even the winds and the waters obeyed their Creator!

3. Feeding the Five Thousand

Read Matthew 14:15-21. Suppose that you came along during the middle of this meal, not knowing that a tremendous miracle had just taken place. One of the men holds up a fish for you to look at and he asks, "Do you think you can give me the life history of this fish?" You would probably think that this was an odd question, but you do your best to answer, "Well, as far as I can tell this fish must have been hatched from eggs and was swimming around in the Sea of Galilee. One day a fisherman must have caught it in his net and then it was prepared for eating." But the man would then say, "No, I'm sorry, but you are wrong. This fish was never hatched, it was never in the water, it was never caught—it is a fish that was never even wet! Jesus the Creator just made this fish! Not only that, but these barley loaves which we are eating were made of barley which never grew in a field, was never harvested and was never gathered or processed or baked in ovens. These loaves have an appearance of history which they never really had!" [Only the two fish and the five loaves had any real history; the rest of the fish and loaves were created for the occasion.]

4. Healing Miracles

Every diseased and crippled and leprous person that Jesus ever healed instantly took on the appearance of previous health which he never really had. Because of their miraculous healings, these people were perfectly healthy and if you did not know about their healing you would assume that they had enjoyed such health for quite some time. Consider the man in John 9 who was blind from his birth. Jesus healed him completely and instantly. Imagine if this man were to go to an eye doctor for an eye examination:

BLIND MAN: “How are my eyes, doctor?”

DOCTOR: “Sir, you have 20-20 vision. You really have been blessed with good vision!”

BLIND MAN: “No, doctor, you do not understand. I was blind all my life until yesterday, but the Creator healed me!”

[The doctor would normally assume that this man had always had good vision, but this assumption would have been wrong].

The same is true with the man in Acts 3 who was _____ from his _____ (Acts 3:2). God healed him (verses 6-7) and all the people were amazed as they saw him walking and even leaping (verses 9-11), because they knew he had a history of lameness, but he was acting as if he never had such a history at all. If you had met this man after his healing you never would have guessed that he had been lame from birth.

5. Lazarus

Read John 11 (the miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead). Just suppose Lazarus were to go to a doctor for a physical examination:

DOCTOR: “Well, Lazarus, you pass the test, you seem to be in very good health! Your physical condition is excellent”

LAZARUS: “Doctor, from your experience, what would you say my past history has been?”

DOCTOR: “Well, I’m sure you must have been getting plenty of good exercise and eating well and enjoying overall good health for quite some time.”

LAZARUS: “Doctor, this may be a surprise to you, but I recently was **dead** and my body was decomposing and rotting away for 4 days in a tomb (even to the point where it was starting to smell—John 11:39), but my CREATOR and my SAVIOUR brought me back to life!”

The Lord Jesus Taught that the Earth is Young

There were not millions of years of pre-human history on planet Earth. How do we know this? Because the Lord Jesus said so. “And He [Jesus] answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that He which made them at the _____ made them male and female” (Matthew 19:4). This verse is very significant as it pertains to the age of the earth. When did God make man? He made him “at the beginning” (Matt. 19:4). This rules out long geological periods prior to man’s arrival on earth since man was there at the very beginning. You see, evolution teaches that man did not come along at the beginning but that he appeared many millions of years after the beginning.

Evolution teaches that there were millions and millions of years which preceded the arrival of man. There were numerous geological ages that unfolded before man ever came along. Man arrived on the scene very late in earth’s history. Most of earth history took place before man ever evolved, they would claim.

The Biblical position is clear. At the very beginning man was here. Indeed, man was made and placed on the earth just five days after the earth was created (Genesis 1)! Did dinosaurs roam the earth millions of years before man arrived? No, the land dinosaurs were created on the very same day as man, Day 6, and the water dinosaurs (sea reptiles) were created one day earlier, on Day 5. The Lord Jesus made it very clear that man was made **at the beginning**.

According to Evolution:

Age of the Earth

4.6 billion years



Time humans have been on earth

2.8 million years



According to the evolutionary view, for most of earth history man was not present. Evolution teaches that the earth was formed about 4.6 billion years ago and man did not appear until about 2.8 million years ago. The number 2.8 million may seem like a large number, but it's actually a very small number compared with 4.6 billion. If the evolutionary age of the earth is represented by a year, humans would have been living on it for only 5 hours and 20 minutes (less than a day).

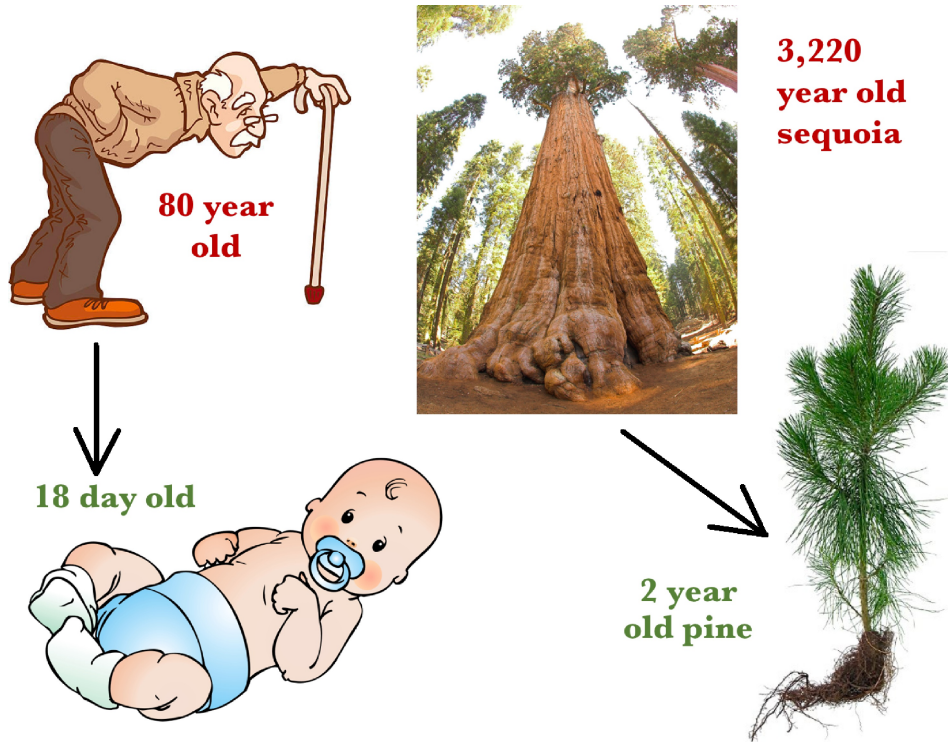
Distance from Middletown to San Diego

2,500 miles

1.5 miles



Using a distance analogy: if the evolutionary age of the earth is represented by the distance from San Diego to Middletown, Connecticut (about 2500 miles), then the time humans have supposedly been on earth would be only about 1.5 miles. According to evolutionary theory, during most of earth history man is not there.



Let an 80 year old man represent the evolutionary age of the earth. Eighteen days would represent the time man has been on earth. According to evolution, the earth is so very much older than man. The evolutionary age of the earth can also be represented by a giant sequoia tree which is over 3000 years old; the time man is on earth is so short it would be represented by a 2 year old pine.

Height of World Trade Center One Building

1,792 feet

13 inches



Let the evolutionary age of the earth be represented by the height of the World Trade Center One building (1792 feet). If that is the time scale, then man has only been here for 13 inches, according to evolution.

All of these illustrations merely point out that if you believe in long earth ages, then there is no way you can say that man was made at the beginning. On the contrary, according to the old earth view, man did not arrive until very recently. But the Lord Jesus clearly taught that man was made at the beginning (Matt. 19:4). There cannot be two more different world views. The Biblical view is that man has been on this earth for all of earth history, minus only five days. He only missed the first five days and then was created on Day 6 (Genesis 1).

Why is Jesus the ultimate Authority on who was here at the beginning? One reason is because He was here in the beginning, and therefore He knows what happened!. “In the beginning was the Word!” In fact, He was the One who created man at the beginning. “All things were made by [through] Him (John 1:3; see also Colossians 1:16). May we humbly take God at His Word in these days of rampant unbelief. Remember, evolution needs long ages for their theory to work. Creationists say, “With God all things are possible” (compare Luke 1:37). Evolutionists believe, “With time and chance, all things are possible.” If you have enough time and if you are lucky enough, then anything can happen!

The Age of the Earth and the Age of Man

The Bible has much to tell us about the age of the earth and the age of man. Remember, the age of the earth and the age of man are basically the same (the earth is five days older than man, according to Genesis chapter 1). The earth was not here millions or billions of years before Adam.

The Bible, in different places, gives us detailed genealogies which help us to determine the approximate age of mankind (the length of time man has been on the earth starting with Adam). For example, in Luke chapter 3 we have a lengthy genealogy. This genealogy begins with J _____ (see verse 23) and goes all the way back to A _____ (see verse 38).

We know that from the time of Christ to the present is approximately 2000 years (Christ died approximately 30 A.D.). We also know that from the time of Abraham to the time of Christ was about 2000 years (Abraham lived on earth approximately 2000 B.C.). There are two other periods of time which help to complete our understanding of man’s history on earth:

- 1) The Period from the Creation of Adam to the Flood (Noah).
- 2) The Period from the Flood to Abraham.

For each of these periods God does give us a GENEALOGY. In **Genesis chapter 5** we have a genealogy covering the time from Adam to Noah (from Creation to the Flood). In **Genesis chapter 11** we have a genealogy covering the time from Shem (Noah’s son) to Abraham (from the Flood to Abraham).

Thus to determine the age of the earth and the age of man, there are four main period of time that we must add up:

From Creation to the Flood (Genesis 5)	1650 years or more
From the Flood to Abraham (Genesis 11)	450 years or more
From Abraham to Christ (Matthew 1)	About 2000 Years
From Christ to the Present	About 2000 Years

Therefore, the total time man has been on earth is about 6000 years or more.

Genealogical Gaps

The reason we can not be sure about the length of time represented in the first two categories is because of the possibility that there could have been some (not many) gaps in the genealogies. A gap occurs when one or more generations are skipped.

One example of a genealogical gap is the gap between Joram and Uzziah. In Matthew 1:8 (KJV) we read that J _____ begat Ozias (who is also called **Uzziah** or Azariah). Does this mean that Joram was the father of Uzziah? Actually as we study the Old Testament carefully we discover that Joram was actually the great, great grandfather of Uzziah.

Who was the son of Joram (2 Kings 8:24)? _____

Who was the son of Ahaziah (2 Kings 11:2)? _____

Who was the son of Joash (2 Kings 12:19-21)? _____

Who was the son of Amaziah (2 Kings 14:21)? _____

Azariah is the same person as Uzziah. So we see that in Matthew's genealogy, several generations were skipped.

Symmetry but not Completeness

As we study the genealogies in the Bible, we discover that the Bible writers seemed to be more concerned about *symmetry* (having a regular and balanced arrangement of names) than they were about *completeness* (listing every father and every son without any gaps). As we compare the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 we find that they are in perfect balance and symmetry. In each case there are 10 patriarchs (fathers) with the 10th patriarch having 3 important sons. In Genesis 5 Noah was the 10th patriarch and his sons were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. In Genesis 11, Terah was the 10th patriarch, and his sons were Abram, Nahor, and Haran.¹ Matthew's genealogy contains three symmetrical divisions of 14 generations each (Matt. 1:17), even though we know that Matthew's genealogy contained some gaps. Perhaps the genealogies were given in such a symmetrical way in order to help the readers in memorizing these family trees.

Conclusion

The earth and man are the same age. Man was made at the very beginning of earth history, as were all the plants and animals and sea creatures. The earth is not millions or billions of years old as evolutionists believe. The earth is very young, less than 10,000 years old. May God help us to take Him at His Word and believe what He says, even when it comes to matters of history, chronology and science. God's Word is truth (John 17:17), and this includes the God-inspired book of Genesis.

¹Genesis 11 in the KJV has only nine patriarchs, but in Luke 3:35-36 the name "Cainan" appears before "Shelah" (KJV, "Sala") and "Arphaxad." The Septuagint translation of Genesis 11 also includes the name "Cainan" in agreement with Luke, indicating that this name could have been part of the original Hebrew text.