

STUDY GUIDE

Some people believe God created, but they deny Creation took place in six normal-length days. Does it matter whether God took six days or millions of years to bring about the universe?

1. Age-dating methods:
 - a. All age-dating methods are based on assumptions about the past that cannot be proven.
 - b. 90% of all age-dating methods give dates far *younger* than secular scientists require.
 - c. Careful study of Biblical chronology yields a date for the universe of only a few thousand years.
2. Positions attempting to add man's theories of 'millions of years' to the Bible:
 - a. Gap Theory: There is a gap of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.
 - b. Day-Age Theory: The days in Genesis 1 represent long periods of time.
 - c. The Universe existed for millions of years before creation.
3. Biblical uses of the word 'day':
 - a. The Hebrew word for day (*yom*) is used 2301 times in the Old Testament. Outside of Genesis 1:
 - i. Yom + ordinal number (used 410 times) always indicates an ordinary day.
 - ii. The words 'evening' and 'morning' together (38 times) always indicate an ordinary day.
 - iii. Yom + 'evening' or 'morning' (23 times each) always indicates an ordinary day.
 - iv. Yom + 'night' (52 times) always indicates an ordinary day.
 - b. Genesis 2:4—*Yom* is not qualified with a number or the phrases 'evening and/or morning,' and represents a period of time.

NOTES

CONTINUED...

S T U D Y G U I D E

- c. Exodus 20:11—The basis for our week is the six days of creation and one day of rest.
- d. The Israelites walked around Jericho for seven days, *not* an indeterminate number of days.
- e. Jonah was in the whale for three days, not three thousand years.
- f. 2 Peter 3:8—In context, this verse is showing God is outside of time, and is not attempting to define a ‘day.’

C O N C L U S I O N

Biblical authority and infallibility are called into question if God did not create in six Earth-rotation days. If the Bible is wrong when it speaks of God creating in six days, why is it not wrong when it speaks of the Virginal Conception or the Resurrection of Christ? The foundations of Christianity are based firmly in the words of Scripture, which state clearly that God created all things in six days.

N O T E S

Q U O T E S

'Back in my father's day, it took 10 days to drive across the Australian outback during the day.'

Mary Jo Campbell, Correspondence Assistant to Dr Dobson, December 1994

...But the sun was not created until the fourth day; so was the first 'day' really a day? I don't know. I'm not sure which interpretation of God's Word is accurate...

James Dobson, Focus on the Family radio show, Faith-strengthening discoveries in modern science, August 7-8, 1997.

I believe that God specifically created the universe. I believe in the Big Bang. I think that's a trivial name for it but, I believe that's how he did it...

Don Stoner, A New Look at an Old Earth, Harvest House Publishers, pp. 32-33, 37.

The young-earth teaching is, at least in part, the result of theologians forming dogmatic theories after examining the biblical evidence and paying insufficient attention to God's creation... . Christians are often inclined to take the young-earth position simply because it appears to be the plainest reading of the Bible.

Pattle T. Pun, A Theology of Progressive Creationism, Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith 39(1), March 1987.

It is apparent that the most straightforward understanding of the Genesis record, without regard to all of the hermeneutical considerations suggested by science, is that God created heaven and earth in six solar days, that man was created in the sixth day, that death and chaos entered the world after the Fall of Adam and Eve, that all of the fossils were the result of the catastrophic universal deluge which spared only Noah's family and the animals therewith.

Gleason L. Archer, A Survey Of Old Testament Introduction, pp. 196-197.

From a superficial reading of Genesis 1, the impression would seem to be that the entire creative process took place in six twenty-four-hour days. If this was the true intent of the Hebrew author...this seems to run counter to modern scientific research, which indicates that the planet Earth was created several billion years ago... .The more recently expanded knowledge of nuclear physics has brought into play another type of evidence which seems to confirm the great antiquity of the earth, that is, the decay of radioactive minerals.

Charles Hodge, Systematic Theology, p. 571.

It is of course admitted that, taking this account by itself, it would be most natural to understand the word in its ordinary sense; but if that sense brings the Mosaic account into conflict with facts, and another sense avoids such conflict, then it is obligatory on us to adopt that other.

Dr James Boice, Genesis, An Expository Commentary, Vol. 1, pp. 57-62.

...We have to admit here that the exegetical basis of the creationists is strong...In spite of the careful biblical and scientific research that has accumulated in support of the creationists' view, there are problems that make the theory wrong to most (including many evangelical) scientists...Data from various disciplines point to a very old earth and an even older universe...

C O N T I N U E D . . .

Q U O T E S

Milton Keynes, *Salt Magazine*, Scripture Union, UK, p. 29, Jan/Mar 1998.

When was the universe made?

The study of palaeontology has rendered it virtually impossible for a serious scientist to make a case for a six day creation about six thousand years ago, as Christians would once have believed without question. At the same time, the study of ancient literatures has rendered it understandable that the first chapters of Genesis should use the kind of language technically known as 'mythological' to explain the origins of the universe.

Martin Luther, *What Martin Luther Says: A Practical In-Home Anthology for the Active*, p. 1523

The 'Days' of Creation Were Ordinary Days in Length. We must understand that these days were actual days (veros dies), contrary to the opinion of the holy fathers. Whenever we observe that the opinions of the fathers disagree with Scripture, we reverently bear with them and acknowledge them to be our elders. Nevertheless, we do not depart from the authority of Scripture for their sake.

Martin Luther, *What Martin Luther Says: A Practical In-Home Anthology for the Active*, p. 1523.

How long did the work of Creation take? When Moses writes that God created heaven and earth and whatever is in them in six days, then let this period continue to have been six days, and do not venture to devise any comment according to which six days were one day. But, if you cannot understand how this could have been done in six days, then grant the Holy Spirit the honor of being more learned than you are. For you are to deal with Scripture in such a way that you bear in mind that God Himself says what is written. But since God is speaking, it is not fitting for you wantonly to turn His Word in the direction you wish to go.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does denying that God created in six Earth-rotation days lead to the crumbling of the foundations of Christianity?
2. How do we know the days mentioned in Genesis 1 refer to normal-length days and not long periods of time?
3. Why is it not a problem that the Sun was created on Day 4, and not on Day 1?

RESOURCES

*The (Revised and Expanded)
Answers Book*
edited by Dr Don Batten

Creation magazine