

# Creation and Evolution

## I. Creation

### A. Genesis 1

1. "In the beginning,..."
  - a. Day one: The heavens, the earth, and light. (Genesis 1: 1-5)
  - b. Day two: The atmosphere. (Genesis 1:6-8)
  - c. Day three: Dry land, (the seas), plants, trees, herbs. (Genesis 1:9-13)
  - d. Day four: The sun, the moon, and the stars. (Genesis 1: 14-19)
  - e. Day five: Aquatic creatures and birds (Genesis: 1:20-23)
  - f. Day six: Land animals and man (Genesis 1:24-31)
  - g. Day seven: God "rested." (Genesis 2:1-2)
2. What other basis is there for the week?
  - a. There are no astronomical observations that are used as a basis for the seven-day week.

### B. Genesis 2

1. Is it a different timeline?
  - a. Genesis 2 compliments Genesis 1.
  - b. See handout "The Tablet Theory of Genesis Authorship"

### C. Timelines

1. James Ussher (1581-1656) Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland (Anglican).
  - a. *The Annals of the Old Testament*. Creation was the night before Oct 23, 4004 BC. An impressive historical feat; but he considered the Bible the only reliable source, especially for the time from creation to Nebuchadnezzar. He used that date as an anchor as it was well documented.
  - b. A portion of Ussher's calculations:

#### First Genealogy-Genesis 5

| Verse  | Event                            | Age of the Earth |
|--------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1:1-31 | Creation                         | 0                |
| 5:3    | Seth born when Adam, 130         | 130              |
| 5:6    | Enos born when Seth, 105         | 235              |
| 5:9    | Cainan born when Enos, 90        | 325              |
| 5:12   | Mahalaleel born when Cainan, 70  | 395              |
| 5:15   | Jared born when Mahalaleel, 65   | 460              |
| 5:18   | Enoch born when Jared, 162       | 622              |
| 5:21   | Methuselah born when Enoch, 65   | 687              |
| 5:25   | Lamech born when Methuselah, 187 | 874              |
| 5:28   | Noah born when Lamech, 182       | 1056             |
| 11:10  | Shem born when Noah, 502         | 1558             |
| 7:6    | Flood when Noah, 600             | 1656             |

From Genesis 11 we get:

|       |                              |      |
|-------|------------------------------|------|
| 11:10 | Arphaxad born when Shem, 100 | 1658 |
| 11:12 | Salah born when Arphad, 35   | 1693 |
| 11:14 | Eber born when Salah, 30     | 1723 |
| 11:16 | Peleg born when Eber, 34     | 1757 |

|             |                              |      |
|-------------|------------------------------|------|
| 11:18       | Reu born when Peleg, 30      | 1787 |
| 11:20       | Serug born when Reu, 32      | 1819 |
| 11:22       | Nahor born when Serug, 30    | 1849 |
| 11:24       | Terah born when Nahor, 29    | 1878 |
| 11:32, 12:4 | Abraham born when Terah, 130 | 2008 |
| 12:4        | Abraham enters Canaan, 75    | 2083 |

## II. Evolution

### A. Evolution and long ages are not recent theories.

#### 1. Long ages were held by ancient pagans.

- India: a cycle of time = 4.32 million yrs. 1000 cycles = 1 day in the life of Brahma and another 1000 cycles = 1 night. 100 days (864 billion yrs) = the life of Brahma.
- Plato claimed 20,000,000 yrs. from the flood to his time.
- Greeks and Romans believed in a cyclical system with “Great Years” equal to 36,000 years each.

### B. Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

- Baptized Anglican and raised by a Unitarian mother, he seriously considered becoming a minister.
- On the voyage of the *Beagle*, he was apparently greatly influenced by Charles Lyell’s *Principles of Geology*, which ridiculed the idea of a recent creation and supported an old earth and declared the Flood to be false.
- As Darwin read and came to believe such things, his faith in Genesis wavered and led to his complete loss of faith in the Bible and God.
- The Origin of Species*
  - The book that started Darwin’s revolution
  - Has led to such horrors as abortion (Margaret Sanger and Planned Parenthood), eugenics (Hitler), and euthanasia
    - Eugenics is the attempt to breed a better human race by applying evolutionary principles. Its founder was Darwin’s cousin Francis Galton (1822–1911).
- Natural selection
  - Another word is adaptation. All creatures have this ability, but it does not lead to anything new. All traits exhibited through natural selection were already there but were not necessarily obvious until there was a change in environment or similar.

## III. Geology

### A. Age of earth

- Prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the dominant view in the Christian world was that the earth was created in 6 days around 4000 BC and approx 1600 years later was judged in a global flood. Many people advanced theories that gradually came to change the dominant thinking.
  - Comte de Buffon (1708-88): the earth was the result of a collision between a comet and the sun creating a molten lava blob that gradually cooled over at least 78,000 years.
  - Pièrre Laplace (1749–1827): the solar system had naturally and gradually condensed from a gas cloud during an indefinite but very long period of time.
  - Jean Lamarck (1744-1829): proposed a theory of biological evolution over long ages by means of the inheritance of acquired characteristics.
  - James Hutton (1726-97): proposed that the continents were gradually and continually being eroded into the ocean basins. These sediments were then gradually hardened and catastrophically raised by the internal heat of the Earth to form new continents, which would be

gradually eroded into the ocean again. With this slow cyclical process in mind, Hutton said that he could see no evidence of a beginning to the Earth, which brought the charge of atheism by some.

e. William Smith (1769-1839): produced the first geological maps of England and Wales and he developed the method of using fossils to assign relative dates to the strata.

f. Georges Cuvier (1768-1832): By studying fossils found primarily in the Paris Basin he believed that over the course of untold ages there had been at least four regional or nearly global catastrophic floods, the last of which probably was about 5000 years ago. After each catastrophe, Cuvier apparently believed, God supernaturally created new forms of life.

g. Charles Lyell (1797-1875): Building on Hutton's uniformitarian ideas, Lyell insisted that the geological features of the Earth can, and indeed must, be explained by slow gradual processes of erosion, sedimentation, earthquakes and volcanism operating at essentially the same rate and power as we observe today. By the 1840s his view became the ruling paradigm in geology.

## B. Dating methods

### 1. Carbon 14:

a. C-14 is an unstable radioactive isotope that slowly decays into nitrogen.

b. All living things contain normal carbon (C-12) and C-14. They are exchanged and renewed with the atmosphere. Death stops that renewal and the C-14 starts to decay. Presumably, because of the known half-life (5,730 years), it should be easy to measure the amount of C-14 relative to C-12 and compare with that ratio in living organisms today to determine how old it is. (Many variables though).

c. Cannot show dates older than about 50,000 years

### 2. Radiometric dating

a. Use the relative concentrations of parent and daughter products in radioactive decay chains.

1) potassium-40 decays to argon-40

2) uranium-238 decays to lead-206 via other elements like radium

3) uranium-235 decays to lead-207 uranium-235 decays to lead-207

4) rubidium-87 decays to strontium-87

b. Fossils are dated by dating the rocks (igneous) next to them.

## D. Problems

1. To derive ages from such measurements, unprovable assumptions have to be made such as:

a. The starting conditions are known (for example, that there was no daughter isotope present at the start, or that we know how much was there).

b. Decay rates have always been constant.

c. Systems were closed or isolated so that no parent or daughter isotopes were lost or added.

d. For C-14, too many factors can influence the amount of C-14 in the atmosphere, volcanoes, cosmic action, the earth's magnetic field and, of course, the global flood.

1) Diamonds have measurable C-14.

## E. RATE program

1. A few years ago an initiative was undertaken to research thoroughly the whole area of Radioactivity and the Age of The Earth. The RATE program was a cooperative project between ICR and CRS.

2. One important discovery:

a. When uranium decays to lead, a by-product of this process is the formation of helium, a very light, inert gas which readily escapes from rock.

b. Certain crystals called zircons, obtained from drilling into very deep granites, contain uranium which has partly decayed into lead.

c. By measuring the amount of uranium and 'radiogenic lead' in these crystals, one can calculate that, if the decay rate has been constant, about 1.5 billion years must have passed. (This is consistent with the geologic 'age' assigned to the granites in which these zircons are found.)

d. There is a significant amount of helium from that '1.5 billion years of decay' still inside the zircons. There should be hardly any helium left since, because of its structure, it should escape readily from the spaces within the crystal structure.

e. Drawing any conclusions from the above depends, of course, on actually measuring the rate at which helium leaks out of zircons. This is what one of the RATE papers reports on. The samples were sent (without any hint that it was a creationist project) to a world-class expert to measure these rates. The consistent answer: the helium does indeed seep out quickly over a wide range of temperatures. In fact, the results show that because of all the helium still in the zircons, these crystals (and since this is Precambrian basement granite, by implication the whole earth) could not be older than between 4,000 and 14,000 years. In other words, in only a few thousand years, 1.5 billion years' worth (at today's rates) of radioactive decay has taken place. Interestingly, the data have since been refined and updated to give a date of 5680 (+/- 2000) years.

#### F. *Grand Canyon: A different view*

### IV. Biology

#### A. So many areas:

1. Anthropology
2. Genetics
3. Paleontology
4. Archeology
5. Baraminology (classification of created kinds)
6. Speciation

#### B. Genetics

1. Eve.

Inside every cell of a human body is a stretch of DNA which is only inherited from one's mother. Unlike ordinary DNA, which takes part in the transfer of hereditary information, it is not found in the nucleus (centre) of a cell but in a little 'energy factory' in the outer parts of the cell called the mitochondrion.

Copying mistakes (mutations) in this DNA are not likely to be lethal (and thus quickly eliminated), so they can accumulate at a faster rate than ordinary DNA. So if the various races of men alive today were separated by vast periods during which they evolved separately, they would have quite different DNA 'fingerprints' in the mitochondria of their cells.

Analyzing samples of mitochondrial DNA from large numbers of all the different races on Earth showed that there was a surprising (to evolutionists) degree of relatedness—in fact, the differences that were found could be accommodated by postulating one woman as the common ancestor of all the mitochondrial DNA sequences found on Earth.

Note that this does not mean that evolutionists believe that only one woman existed at that time.

Only that this was the only one to have transmitted her mitochondrial DNA to all the people living on earth today.

Think of the way in which a surname in our society is only inherited from the father. Now imagine an island whose inhabitants had only three surnames: Smith, Jones and Watson. Any particular name can become 'extinct' (if all the descendants in one generation are female only) even though that generation still has offspring. In due course, it is not at all unlikely that all the inhabitants will come to carry the same surname. This happened in the case of Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific with the descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers in 1790.

Mitochondrial DNA 'surnames' can become 'extinct' in the same way. In fact, with a small population of females to begin with (that is, a small number of 'surnames'), it is a likely occurrence. Now imagine if the island population mentioned above has already broken into two groups, each with all three surnames. Smith may ultimately become the sole surviving surname within one isolated group, Jones on the next. However, if the inhabitants of the one island, after being reduced to one surname, spread out across an empty Earth, all populations will carry that name. If they have already separated into several groups for a significant time before such a wide dispersion, then there is likely to be more than one surname present today.

Having only one mitochondrial 'surname' surviving in all the races of man means either that (a) there really was only one woman at the beginning of a very recent origin of humanity—the biblical Eve, or that (b) all the other 'surnames' have become extinct. However, as we have seen from our island/surname example, this would seem to mean accepting that all the races existed as a single small population long after man is supposed to have first evolved. In other words, in escaping the biblical implications of 'Eve' (by regarding her as one woman among many living in Africa 200,000 years ago) evolutionists must accept a scenario which in broad outline strongly parallels the Babel account. (Answers in Genesis)

2. Four sources of variation:

a. Environment (Darwin)

b. Recombination (Mendel – flower colors) (Darwin – Galapagos finches)

c. Mutation (genetic errors; always a loss of information).

Geneticists began breeding the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, soon after the turn of the century, and since 1910 when the first mutation was reported, some 3,000 mutations have been identified.<sup>3</sup> All of the mutations are harmful or harmless; none of them produce a more successful fruit fly—exactly as predicted by the creation model.

d. Creation (only possible answer for the great diversity we see today – great genetic variety in each created kind)

C. Unique abilities (cannot be explained by evolution)

1. Coding of DNA and decoding in cells which requires code in that DNA – a circle that cannot be broken.

2. Irreducible complexity – bacterial flagella and its tiny motor (could not have been “built” step-by-step over time).

3. Music, there is no valid evolutionary explanation for the development of music – it is a gift of God.

4. Bat sonar –detect own signal among thousands of others and 2,000 times fainter than background noise.