



Thousands Not Millions

Christian Values in Education

Age: Senior (13+)

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Assessing Time and Age	2
1. Radioisotope Dating	3
2. Fossils	5
3. What about Carbon Dating?	5
What Other Scientific Evidence is used to Indicate the Age of the Earth?	6
1. The Magnetic field of the Earth	6
2. Helium Gas in the Atmosphere	7
3. Saltiness of the Ocean	9
Additional Observations	10
Some Relevant Scriptures	11
Concluding Comments	12
Appendix A	14
References	16

CHRISTIAN VALUES IN EDUCATION

An organisation set up to challenge the atheistic and amoral attitudes found in our education system today

THOUSANDS NOT MILLIONS

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of a recently broadcast documentary on how life was supposed to have begun on the earth, it was emphatically stated that the earth is 4.5 billion years old and life began to form on it 3.9 billion years ago. Such statements are readily taken up in the education field as truth and so opposition to the teaching of Biblical creation increases. Some university professors regard Biblical creation as “the teaching of abominable lies as fact, for which there is no scientific foundation”. One Oxford University professor called for one school that taught Biblical creation to be re-inspected by Ofsted, even though it had gained a very good report.

Saddest of all, criticism of Biblical creation comes from some within the professing church who say that it is “bad religion and bad science”. The six days of creation are regarded by them as a myth or as six long periods of time.

Until the 18th Century most theologians and scientists of the western world believed in the Genesis account of creation but by the end of the 19th Century most had abandoned it through the published writings of such men as James Hutton, Charles Lyell and Charles Darwin. By their evolutionary theories on the origins and developments of life on the earth they sought to completely discredit the Bible. Today most scientists and theological colleges teach evolutionary theories as fact.

The theories that the universe, and all that it contains, evolved over millions of years are regarded in the education establishments today as presenting the truth. These theories

are taught every day through the state school curriculum whether it is in history, geography, religious education, biology or other sciences.

This pamphlet briefly considers the theories and basic assumptions that underpin evolutionary theory on the age of the earth. It also describes known scientific facts that would contradict evolutionary theory should the same basic assumptions be applied to them. The pamphlet is intended to support discussions in class and provide a basis for further study.

ASSESSING TIME AND AGE

There is little disagreement on the time when Abraham and Moses lived on the earth. Even the ancient Egyptians kept many records of those days. Throughout the ages historical dates and times have been derived from the writings and records of people who lived at the time. But when it comes to the age of the earth we live on there is no immediate indication of time. Rocks, water and the air we breathe have no clear labelling to tell us their age. From the Bible accounts we can derive that the earth is of the order of 6000 years old. Evolutionists and those who believe in longevity of creation say millions or even billions of years old.

Scientists use various dating methods to assess the age of a sample of rock. The most common are:

1. Radioisotope dating. (That is, the radioactive decay of elements within the rock such as uranium to lead, or potassium to argon).
2. Types of fossils found in the rock.
3. Carbon dating. (This is only applicable to certain rocks).

The use of these methods depends on certain assumptions being made such as:

- Rocks on the surface of the earth are younger than those lower down.
- A time index of fossils, generated by scientists themselves, is valid.
- Time 'zero' is when lava solidified into rock.
- The initial conditions at the onset of radioactive decay are known.
- Radioactive decay has been constant and uniform throughout time.
- There have been no external influences (e.g. ground water) that have deposited radioactive isotopes or removed them from the rock.

1. Radioisotope Dating

Certain elements found in rocks, such as uranium and potassium, decay over time through radioactive processes to form other elements such as lead and argon respectively. By measuring the ratio of uranium to lead (or potassium to argon) isotopes in a rock sample, and by knowing the rate of decay today, scientists calculate the 'age' of the rock. (See Appendix A for further explanation and detail if required.)

It is known by scientists that the same sample of rock can be assessed for age by two or more radioactive decay methods and the results be very different.

By example: A sample of rock of solidified basalt lava taken from the Grand Canyon has been assessed as 516 million years old by one method and 1100 million years old by another. From the nature and position of this rock in the Grand Canyon scientists could only conclude that the difference is due to changes over time in the radioactive decay rates. This

undermines the assumption of a constant and uniform process.

It is known by scientists that different samples of the same rock dated by the same method give different results.

By example: 200 years ago a volcano erupted on Hawaii. The lava flowed down into the sea and solidified. When samples of the solidified lava were tested for age a few years ago the following results were obtained, using the same radioactive isotope method:

- Solidified lava found at 5000 metres below the surface of the sea gave a measurement of 20 to 25 millions of years old.
- Solidified lava found at 3000 metres below the surface of the sea gave a measurement of 12 to 14 millions of years old.
- Solidified lava found at 1000 metres below the surface of the sea gave a measurement of zero years old.

The way the lava had solidified and where it lay obviously had an effect on the radioactive isotope level that was being measured. This fact undermines the assumption that no external influence has affected the radioactive decay process. Neither can it be assumed that rocks on the surface are younger than those lower down.

It is known by scientists that the same lava flows do not have the same initial conditions.

By example: Recent lava flows at Mt. Ngauruhoe in the North Island of New Zealand have yielded various 'ages' up to 3.5 million years using the potassium to argon radioisotope dating method. The reason for this is that the argon measured in the lavas is not derived from potassium through radioactive decay but is inherent in the lava from the earth's magma, and

it varies. This fact undermines the assumption that the initial conditions are known when lava solidifies.

It is known by scientists but not readily admitted that the basic assumptions of evolutionary theory are not sound.

2. Fossils

It is known by scientists that there is no real scientific basis for the index of fossils relating to time. It is based on a theory of events, developed by evolutionary scientists themselves, showing how life evolved on the earth. Where a rock contains a fossil, there is rarely correlation between the age of a rock derived from the fossil and the age of the rock calculated through the radioisotope method.

It is known in scientific circles, but not readily admitted, that there is no certain scientific evidence for the age of any rock.

3. What about Carbon Dating?

This can only be applied to rocks that have been formed from, or contain fossils of, living creatures. Living creatures are subject to the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through eating plants that absorb it, and through breathing.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere contains two types of carbon molecules, C^{12} and C^{14} . Cosmic rays from outer space form C^{14} by hitting molecules of nitrogen (N^{14}) in the atmosphere. The ratio of C^{12} to C^{14} was assumed to be constant and therefore of known level in a creature when it dies. After death there is no more intake of carbon molecules but C^{14} begins to decay back to N^{14} . By measuring the ratio of C^{14} to C^{12} molecules in a dead creature then its age could be determined.

Measurements taken over a period of time by scientists now show that the ratio of $C^{12}:C^{14}$ is not constant but is still

increasing. Through these measurements scientists have calculated the time to reach equilibrium from a point when $C^{14} = 0$ (i.e. at the beginning of time). This time is of the order of 30,000 years. Whilst carbon dating itself does not give an accurate indication of age, scientific data regarding the $C^{12}:C^{14}$ ratio suggests that an ancient earth of millions of years old is not possible.

It is known by scientists that the carbon dating method gives results that are not compatible with evolutionary theory, therefore they are being increasingly rejected.

WHAT OTHER SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE IS USED TO INDICATE THE AGE OF THE EARTH?

If evolutionary scientists apply to other features of the earth their basic assumption that physical processes observed today have remained constant and uniform throughout time, then they would have to admit that the results imply a conflict with evolutionary timescales.

1. The Magnetic Field of the Earth

The earth has a magnetic field which causes a compass needle to point towards the North. It is known today that the strength of this magnetic field is decaying. Measurements way back in 1835 showed it to be 8.56 units*. In 1965 it was 8.02 units and in 2000 it was 7.8 units. From these measurements past and future levels of the magnetic field strength have been derived on the basis of uniformity. Calculations by Professor Barnes indicate that zero field strength will be reached at the year

* The Magnetic Moment in units of amp-meters² $\times 10^{22}$

10,000AD and that the field strength would have tended towards infinity at 20,000BC. [See Figure 1]

With too weak a magnetic field there would be little protection from harmful radioactive cosmic rays. With too strong a magnetic field then the earth would possess such energy and heat as to be unstable. Man could not live in these extremes.

The period of 30,000 years from maximum down to minimum magnetic field strength would indicate that the earth is not millions of years old.

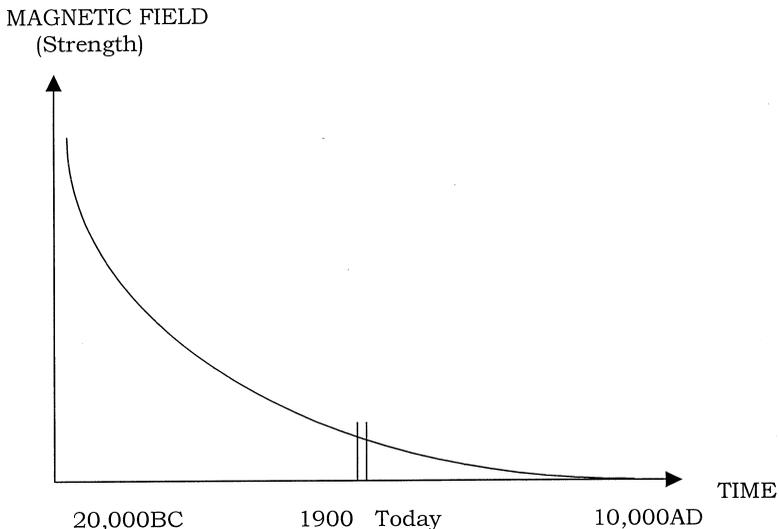


Figure 1. DECLINE OF THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD

2. Helium Gas in the Atmosphere

The quantity of helium gas in the atmosphere can be measured. Helium gas is generated by the process of radioactive decay such as from uranium to lead (see Appendix A). This gas, being so light, migrates through the crevices of rocks and escapes into the atmosphere. In 1990 Dr. Larry Hardiman issued his findings on the study of helium in the

atmosphere. He stated that the rate of escape of helium molecules from the earth into the atmosphere is of the order of 2,000,000/sq.cm/sec. The escape from the atmosphere to outer space is much less. [See Figure 2]

He calculated that if there was no helium in the atmosphere at the beginning of time then assuming uniformity the earth is of the order of 2 million years old. This is not compatible with evolutionary timescales.

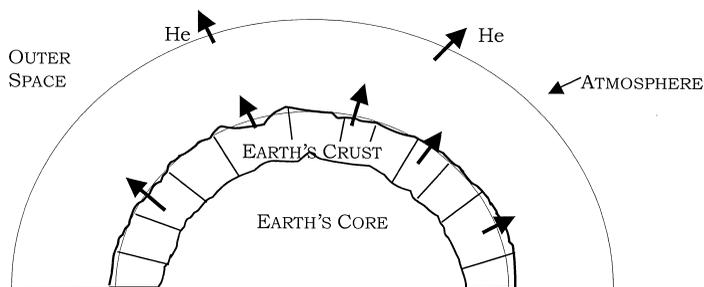


Figure 2. BUILD UP OF HELIUM IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

Helium gas produced from radioactive alpha decay migrates over time through the rock of the earth's crust and escapes into the atmosphere. The loss of helium from the atmosphere into outer space is said to be much less than entering into the atmosphere from the earth's crust. Therefore the helium content is ever increasing in the atmosphere.

Given that the initial condition of no helium existing in the atmosphere at the beginning of time is unlikely and that helium also exists as a natural gas in the earth's crust, then the actual time to reach the current level of helium concentration would be much less.

In the late 1970's granite rock from a deep borehole in New Mexico was analysed. The radioisotope 'date' of the rock was 1.5 billion years. It was found that 58% of the helium produced from the radioactive decay of uranium to lead had not diffused out. The diffusion rate of helium was not known at the time. Experiments have since been conducted on the diffusion rate of helium from the zircon crystals of granite rock

and published by 'Reiners *et al*' in 2002. These results show, on the basis of uniformity, that the 58% level would have been reached in a period of time between 4000 and 14000 years. The conclusion was that there is not millions (let alone billions) of year's worth of radioactively produced helium in the atmosphere.

3. Saltiness of the Ocean

Evolutionists say life began to evolve in the oceans 3.9 billion years ago. Scientists have for some time studied the oceans and the saltiness of the water. The input of salts into the sea (from such sources as rocks and soils collected by rivers; sediment on the sea floor; volcanic and atmospheric dust; coastal erosion) is at least three times greater than the output processes (by means of sea spray and ion exchange). It is a known fact that the saltiness of the seas is increasing. [See Figure 3]

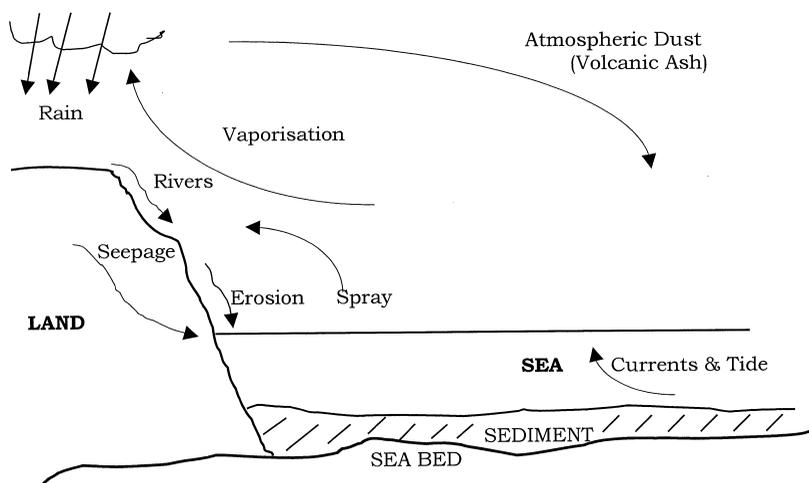


Figure 3. FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE SALTINESS OF THE SEA

By calculation from observations over time, the period of time from an initial condition of zero salt (i.e. fresh water) to saturation, assuming uniformity of process, is given as the order of 32 million years. Today the seas are not near to saturation and therefore would not indicate an earth of evolutionary timescales.

This is further borne out by the observation of the rate at which sediment is being washed into the sea from the land. If the rate has always been the same and the earth were many millions of years old there would be no sediment left on the land today to wash into the sea.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Creature Life: There is a simple observation that says if creature life has been on the earth for millions of years then there would be orders of magnitude more people on the earth than the current 6 billion, assuming a uniform birth rate as of today. Very strikingly, a recent study by scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, led by Dr Steven Olson and published in the scientific magazine 'Nature', has concluded that every one of the 6 billion people currently living on earth descended from a single person, probably living in eastern Asia, at an estimated time of 3500 years ago. The report stressed that the date was an estimate. It did not go so far as to confirm the Bible account that this person was Noah who was born around 2950BC.

Global Flood: Evolution theory and all the foregoing observations ignore the evidences of a global flood. There are many geological evidences, too many to reference in this brief pamphlet, throughout and within the earth of a global flood. One evidence found in several parts of the world is the vertical embodiment of fossils of living creatures and trees across

10

several horizontal layers of rock strata. This points to a rapid depositing of sediment and objects, as would happen in such a flood as recorded in the Bible in the days of Noah. This upheaval of the earth would have:

- Undermined all the assumptions of radioisotope dating.
- Initiated the fossilising of creatures that existed at the same time.
- Increased the saltiness of the seas.
- Released large quantities of Helium into the atmosphere.

It is also recognised by scientists that the strength of the earth's magnetic field has fluctuated over time. This is observed through the varied alignment of the magnetic domains of the mineral magnetite in solidified lava. One scientist, Dr. Humphreys has shown that the earth's magnetic field would have reversed very rapidly during a global flood. There is observable evidence in rock strata that this has actually occurred.

It is concluded that all the foregoing scientific assessments of the age of the earth cannot rightly claim relevance to reality.

SOME RELEVANT SCRIPTURES

The Bible tells us, in 2 Peter 3:3-6 that in the last days scoffers shall arise saying "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." This is the basic assumption used in every evolutionary scientific calculation of the age of the earth. "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." Here the Bible tells us clearly that things have not remained the same since

the beginning because God flooded the earth. If we disregard these very things which God has done and warned us of, then terrible mistakes are made, especially in conclusions as regards the age of the earth.

Why do so many scientists disregard the record of God's account? The Bible tells us that in the last days mankind will be ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth [2 Timothy 3:7]. Man is in natural rebellion against God and seeks to set himself above God and to discredit and scorn His Word. Unbelieving men will boast in the knowledge they gain to their own glory, being lovers of their own selves and not lovers of God [2 Timothy 3:1-4].

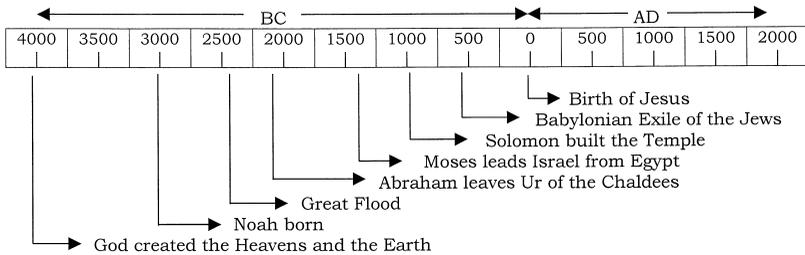
Nothing that man discovers or teaches will ever undermine the eternal truth of God as Creator of all things. The Bible describes in very simple terms the distinction between men and God; "we are the clay, and Thou our potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand". [Isaiah 64:8]. Evolutionary theory is like giving power to the clay to form itself into some useful object over a long period of time. Hence it is the imagination of the minds of men. It denies the hand of the Potter who has the wisdom, skill and power to do as He pleases. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear". [Hebrews 11:3].

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The drive to ridicule the Word of God and creation will only increase as the teaching of the Scriptures declines in our state schools and higher education establishments. A Bible Atlas picked up recently from the shelf of a Christian Book Shop stated that the Dead Sea Valley was formed millions of years ago by some geological process. How strong and influential

the argument of some geologists has become over the past 200 years, together with evolutionary scientists who claim that radioisotope dating alone gives the exact age of rocks!

How can we know how old the earth is, and how it came into existence? Only from the testimony of the One who was there when it happened! The Word of God is Truth! The world was created by God in 6 days! The world is of the order of 6000 years old! To deny this is to say that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was a deceiver when he said “Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female” [Matthew 19:4]. Jesus said there was no longevity of time between the creation of the earth and the forming of man. He created all *at the beginning*. “All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made.” [John 1:3]. It is very solemn to be an unbeliever in the account of creation [Genesis 1 & 2] and in any part of the Bible.

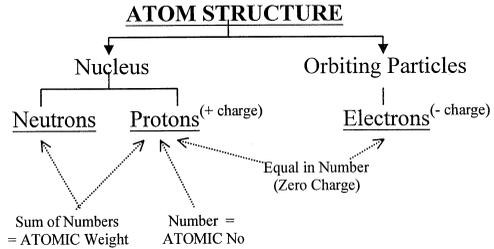
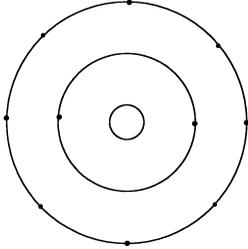


INDICATIVE TIME LINE DERIVED FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Do read the Bible. May God Himself give us the eyes to see, a heart and mind to understand and faith to believe all that is written. Then in the face of much opposition we shall be prevented from being led away with the error of the wicked and distorting (*wresting*) the Scriptures to one’s own destruction. [2 Peter 3:16,17].

APPENDIX A

RADIOACTIVE DECAY AND RADIOISOTOPIC DATING

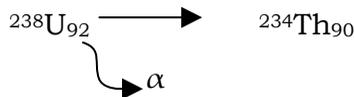


THE URANIUM ATOM

This has an atomic weight of 238 and an atomic number of 92. This means it has 92 protons (and electrons) and therefore 146 neutrons.

With so many neutrons the nucleus is unstable and occasionally the atom ejects an 'alpha' (α) particle which consists of 2 neutrons and 2 protons. Because there are now more electrons than protons the balance of charge is no longer zero and 2 electrons are released from orbit which combine with the α particle to produce a helium atom (Nucleus of 2 protons and 2 neutrons orbited by 2 electrons).

The resulting element is no longer uranium but thorium (Th) with an atomic weight of 234 and an atomic Number of 90. This process is called 'alpha' radioactive decay.



THE THORIUM ATOM ($^{234}\text{Th}_{90}$)

The nucleus of the thorium atom is also unstable and occasionally a neutron breaks down into a proton and an electron. The proton is retained in the nucleus but the electron is ejected. When the electron loses energy it begins to orbit around a nucleus to balance the charge.

The resulting element is no longer thorium but protactinium (Pa) with atomic weight of 234 but atomic number of 91 (1 less neutron, 1 more proton). This process is called 'beta' (β) radioactive decay.



CONTINUED DECAY

The radioactive decay of uranium continues by α and β radiations through various transitional elements, until the more stable lead atom is reached ($^{206}\text{Pb}_{82}$). Rock 'dating' is measured by the ratio of uranium atoms to lead atoms in a given sample. **This is termed 'radioisotope dating'.**

REFERENCES

For those of you who want further insight into known scientific facts we would recommend:

- 'The Young Earth' by John D. Morris Ph.D. published by Creation Science.
- 'Radioactive Dating' by Andrew A Snelling published by The Genesis Agendum
- Other 'Occasional Papers' published by The Genesis Agendum. (These are for the more technically minded).
- 'The Modern Creation Trilogy' by Henry M; and John D Morris published by Master Books.
- The publications of the Institute for Creation Research. (Details can be found on 'www.icr.org').
- The publications of 'Answers in Genesis'. (Details can be found on 'www.answersingenesis.org').

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