

Section 26: The Creation in Twenty-Four Hour Days

I. Introduction

The Creation subject is offered especially for the sake of young people who are asked to accept the evolution theory. The book, In Six Days, by C.H. McGowen, treats the subject in a very authoritative yet simple to understand manner.

The following paper was written by this author for a Biblical Seminar Course at Texas Bible College, Houston, Texas, in May 1977. It is shown here in a condensed form.

The Creation---how long ago---millions of years or six or seven thousand years ago? Did it take just six days or are those six days lost in typology and symbolism? There are several different views among Christians. What are these views and which one is correct?

Before we answer the question of what, perhaps we should answer the question of why. How can Spirit-filled men come up with such varied answers to the Creation?

One reason is pressure. This pressure is applied by science, or as the Scripture says, "science falsely so called."¹ The world demands an answer, so the man of God feels obligated to respond in defense of the Bible. But the world along with its demands, offers its "facts". The preacher feels his answer to creation must agree with these facts. The "facts" include such things as the age of the earth (billions of years), dinosaurs, bones of pre-historic man (a million years old), etc. The preacher feels his answer to creation must coincide with these findings of science. Since he does believe the Bible is a true book, he thinks that it surely would not contradict science. He feels that somehow he must make science and the Bible join hands on the subject of creation.

A popular way the preacher does the joining together is by adhering to the "gap theory". Let us establish the fact that this theory is offered by sincere men, men who would rather die fighting for the truth contained in the Bible, than to compromise. They are, in the best way they know how, trying to defend the Creation story from the attack of evolution and atheism.

The gap theory takes its scriptural setting from Genesis 1:1-2. There are various definitions and explanations of this view. In essence, they say that there were two separate creations. The first creation was the inhabitation of Lucifer and the angels.

“The period may be called Ante-Chaotic Age---the Dispensation of Angels, because angels ruled various planets. (Isaiah 14:12-13, Ezekiel 28:11-17, Colossians 1:15-18)²

The first creation included dinosaurs, pre-historic man, and the other pre-historic animals. However, because of Lucifer’s rebellion, the earth was destroyed by a flood, similar to Noah’s flood. The proponents of this view also say that fossils resulted from this flood of the first creation.

“The world...that then was” which embraces the whole pre-Adamite Universe, to which all fossils and remains belong...”³

One may ask, why do people adhere to this view? The answer is that they are trying to resolve the time question. With this view, they say the Bible does not specify how long the first creation lasted. Therefore, the supposed findings of pre-historic man can be explained. They simply say that it is not known how long ago the first creation was. The time space between the first creation and the present creation may have been billions of year; therefore, the preacher feels that he has an answer for the scientist. The view can be summed up by the following:

“...Verse 1 refers to the whole universe being created and inhabited in the dateless past, while verse 2 refers to chaos because of sin. Verse 3-31 picture the restoration of the earth as before chaos, and its second habitation with present man and the new earth and water creatures brought into being about six thousand years ago.”⁴

Another view is the “day-age theory”. Briefly, this view states that the word “day” used in Genesis is ambiguous, that it does not really mean a twenty-four-hour day, but represents an age. The purpose of this view, like the gap theory, is to add years to the creation. This is done in order to agree with the “facts”. Such scriptures as I Peter 3:8, are used as supportive evidence.

“...one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”⁵

Of course, if a thousand years for each day is not enough, they can increase each day to ten thousand years or one million years. Some will even say there is no way of knowing how long each day was, thus they can always answer science. Whatever science says, day-age proponents

Say yes to, and then add the necessary years. The problem with this view is that the preacher becomes a pawn in the hands of science. Whichever way science moves, he moves.

Now that we understand the views, let us go back to the question of why. As stated earlier, the reason for these views were an attempt to answer the time issue. Therefore, if one can discount the merits of the time factor, one can also eliminate the need for such a theory. Instead of the gap theory and the day-age theory, one can believe the creation story as twenty-four-hour days. Let us view the time factor.

First, science disagrees with science! If you read after one science book, the answer is that man inhabited the earth one million years ago. However, if you go to another source, you may find early man dating back 2.5 million years ago. Which one is right? When the experts cannot even agree, all we have is another theory, no facts.

Another problem is how to determine time. The most widely acclaimed method is inaccurate, and even supporters of it say that it is accurate only up to 46,000 years. How can it then measure millions of years?

The carbon 14 dating method is such a means of determining age. It is based on the amount of radiocarbon in the article being examined. While living plants, animals, and man take in radiocarbon from the air.

Nature seems to provide an equilibrium between C14 on the outside and C12 on the inside of a person while he lives. This allows for

“a living man to give off 918 disintegration rays per hour per gram of radiocarbon.”⁶

After death, objects cease taking in radiocarbon. They begin losing the radiocarbon they had at the time of death. They lose it at a fixed rate. Every 5,750 years, an object loses about half of the radiocarbon it previously had.

“An ion counter picks up and counts the rays given off by radiocarbon.

By this means, scientists can determine the age of once-living material

Up to about 46,000 years.”⁷

An example of how this works in man: While living, he has 918 counts. 5,750 years after death he has 459 rays per hour. 11,500 years after death, he has only 229 rays per hour, and finally at 46,000 years after death, he has only about 3 rays per hour.

“At this rate, anything older than 50,000 years is not datable by this method, yet man is being told of bones that date up to 2.5 million years in the case of humans and 225 million years in the case of dinosaurs. Now who is kidding whom?”⁸

The dating method also assumes the atmosphere has always contained the same amount of C14. However, if man six thousand years ago contained only one half the amount of C14 that man does today, then the figures scientists use today would be doubling the age to twelve thousand years. The creationist feels that there was very little C14 found before the flood because of a protective canopy of water vapor that surrounded the earth. This covering protected the earth from much of the radiation that we now have.

An example of the fallacy of the C14 dating method is the test done on a living mollusk. The C14 testing determined that he had been dead for 3,000 years. The problems with this dating method are obviously serious.

Before offering what I feel to be the scriptural answer, let's view just briefly why the other views shouldn't be offered. The Bible speaks of Adam and Eve in the New Testament, and if there was someone before Adam (pre-historically), then Paul didn't seem to know of him. Using the scriptural lineage, no one can say that Adam lived over 10,000 years ago.

Even if we make each creative day equal to 1,000 years, this still wouldn't be enough time to equal a billion years. Another example why this will not work is that on the third creative day, herbs, trees, etc. ere created, while on the fourth day the sun was created. If each day was 1,000 years apart, then this theory has a problem explaining how a green plant lives 1,000 years without sunshine.

I feel that we live upon a young earth that is under 10,000 years old. I also believe that the earth was created in six literal twenty-four-hour days. There are several reasons for this belief.

One reason for my belief in a young earth is the present population. If the earth was as old as some scientists say, then today there would be no room left for its inhabitants. The world population was an estimated 3.5 billion in 1970.

“In 1650 the earth's population was only one-seventh of what it is today or 500 million. In the year 1000 A.D. it was 225 million.”⁹

Common sense lets one know that if in 4,000 years, the population has increased like it has, then if man would have evolved long ago, people would be wall to wall today.

“To produce the 2000 B.C. population in one million years, a net increase of only 110 people per year would have been the rule.”¹⁰

The mountains also contain clues to support a young earth theory. Geologists have determined that erosion could cause mountains to lose one foot every 5,000 to 10,000 years. Using the figure of one foot to every 5,000 years, it would take 25 million years to produce one mile of erosion. The eroding soil would eventually flow into the sea, thus raising the water level. With this in mind, the highest point in the United States would have been reduced to sea level in 55 million years. Most geologists estimate that the Rocky Mountains were formed 65 million years ago. One can logically conclude that the Rockies should have been flattened 10 million years ago.

Another point maintained by the creationist is that things were created in a fully mature form. For instance, Adam was not a little baby, and then became a man. He was created as a full grown man. Five minutes after Adam was created, a scientist seeing him might have said he appeared to be 30 years old. Although he looked this old, he was actually only five minutes old. The same principle applied to the fruit trees. All the trees in the garden couldn't have been little saplings because Adam would not have had anything to eat. The truth of the matter is that some trees had to be created ready to produce fruit.

Dinosaurs also cause the scientists problems. They contend that they existed millions of years before man. Yet,

“He is loath to explain the fact that in the Paluxy riverbed, Glenrose, Texas, the fossilized foot prints of a man and a dinosaur are found side by side... these two unfortunate beings lived at the same time and were both attempting to escape from the same horrible catastrophe, the flood.”¹¹

Someone may ask, where are the dinosaurs today? There are two possibilities. One is that they are here, and another is that they are extinct. The Bible believer believes that there was a

universal flood. He also believes that after the flood the conditions of the earth were different. It seemed to lose its greenhouse effect, thus, producing a hostile environment for some animals. Extinction was the result. Another belief is that dinosaurs actually were like some lizards today. There is a possibility that there is no difference in some types of lizards today and pre-flood dinosaurs. The reason they grew larger before the flood was because they lived longer. Some reptiles continue to grow as long as they live; so, it is reasonable to believe that if man lived longer before the flood, then so did the animals. This would therefore explain why pre-flood reptiles were huge. As man's life-span decreased after the flood, so did the animal's, shortening the size of the reptiles.

Also the creationist is asked about the wording of the scriptures in Genesis 1. It seems that one creation was explained and then another explained. However, one needs to understand the writing style of the Hebrews. They would start with a brief summary, and without telling the reader, would explain the point at length. It seemed like different accounts, but was not really. An example of this is found in Genesis 1:27.

“...male and female created he them.”

At the first reading it seems that Eve was created at the same time as Adam. However, the next chapter is devoted to explaining her creation. The creation story is much the same way. One or two verses declare heaven and earth created, and then it is explained in thirty additional verses.

“Pre-historic” bones and supposed cavemen sometimes cause concern to the creationist. However, today there are cave dwellers, so what is the problem? Sometimes flood waters cause man to flee to the mountains and to dwell in caves. For an explanation of the supposed pre-historic man, see chart, (last page).

Some will say, what does it matter whether one believes that the earth is four billion years old or just seven thousand years old. It does make a difference. We have a problem determining which scriptures we are going to believe as they are written and which we are going to add to and spiritualize.

“This practice sets a dangerous precedent, for when part of the Bible is compromised for the sake of one's own understanding, then other areas so essential to salvation and the abundant life are also rationalized away. This same group of individuals who would

expand God's day to an age would also shrink a year to a month in Genesis 5, as they seek ways to understand the longevity of Methuselah who lived 969 years. If these years were only months, his life would have been 80 years and 9 months long. This, of course is much more believable, but then where is the consistency in this type of reasoning? If a man explains away the unbelievable, then he must view the empty tomb of Christ as the result of grave robbers instead of the miraculous resurrection of his Lord; and without the resurrection, he can have no faith. Therefore, to the compromising theistic evolutionist, the creationist simply says, "O ye of little faith".¹²

The chart below is in regards to pre-historic man that was discussed on Page 6.



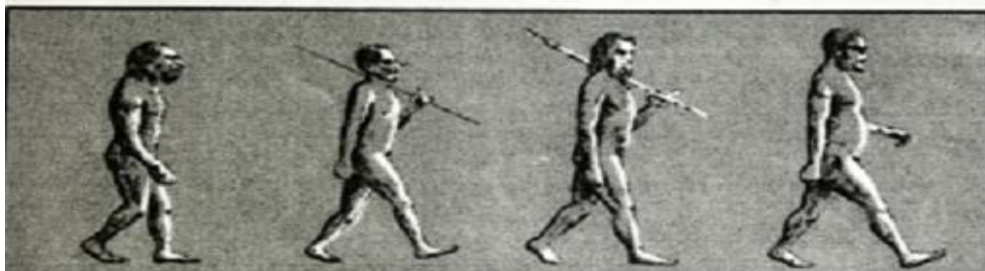
Lucy
Nearly all experts agree Lucy was just a 3 foot tall chimpanzee

Heidelberg Man
Built from a jaw bone that was conceded by many to be quite human

Nebraska Man
Scientifically built up from one tooth. Later found to be the tooth of an extinct pig

Pitldown Man
The jawbone turned out to belong to a modern ape

Peking Man
Supposedly 500,000 years old, but all evidence has



Neanderthal Man
At the int'l Congress of Zoology (1958) Dr. A.J.E. Cave said his examination showed that the famous skeleton found in Germany over 50 years ago is that of an old man who suffered from arthritis.

New Guinea Man
Dates way back to 1970. this species has been found in the region just north of Australia.

Cro-Magnon Man
One of the earliest and best established fossils is at least equal in physique and brain capacity to modern man so what's the difference?

Modern Man
This genius thinks we came from a monkey. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools.

Romans 1:22