

# Apologetics

## Millions of years or 'Six' Days

### Genesis 1:1 - 2:4

#### Why millions of years?

- Millions of years is required for any 'chance' of evolution
- Allows 'time' for geological changes to happen; a view that's only about 250 years old
- Changes and rates of change observed now are applied as a standard for past changes and rates of change
- If it is just six days and the universe only a few thousand years old it can't have happened 'naturally'
- Also necessary to fit in with other theories such as 'the Big Bang theory', and the idea of slow geological processes

#### Can millions of years fit anywhere in the Bible?

- Many people, including many Christians and church leaders, have tried to fit millions of years into the Biblical account
- Most common methods:
  - **Day-Age theory**
    - Each Genesis day was an age
    - "day is like a thousand years to God" – not a commentary on Genesis, also in Greek and general 'day'
    - "and there was a morning and an evening – the first day"; each time a 24 hour day is described (Exodus 20:11)
  - **Gap Theory**
    - Places millions of years between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, also possibly a 'primitive creation'
    - This puts death and disease before the Fall
    - Doesn't fit the literary flow, direct grammatical connection
  - **Ruin-Reconstruction theory**
    - Not the first attempt at creation, previous goes didn't work
    - Based on tenuous interpretation of Genesis 1:28 (KJV); 'replenish' in 1611 meant fill not refill
  - **Progressive Creation**
    - Creation took place in stages; primitive – dinosaurs – mammals – man
    - Doesn't fit with the Biblical account, Creation happened in six literal days

#### What does the world believe and science 'say'?

- Geological processes take a long time
  - Not popularised until about 1750 and not consistent with all the evidence and scientific observations
  - Many of the most important geological thinkers accepted all the Biblical creation and Noah's Flood in geological history

- Starlight and the age of the universe
  - The speed of light is not a constant; faster closer to gravity sources
  - Universe is expanding (Isaiah 40:22) so light will have come from closer position of the stars
  - Red giant super novas, not seeing enough for billions of years
  - Spiral galaxies should be tangled messes as they're winding inwards
  - Comets lose material as they pass close to Sun, but they're still here
- Radiometric dating/Radio Isotope dating
  - All rely on assumptions of initial levels, stable decay rates, contamination and no increase of test element
  - Samples of known age can be tested and give dates of thousands/millions of years
  - Low rock layers have given younger dates than higher rock layers
  - Different testing ratios should give the same result on tested rocks, but they don't
- Radio carbon dating ( $C^{14}$  dating)
  - $C^{14}/C^{12}$  has maximum of 50,000 years but still found in coal and diamonds
  - 1% contamination can put dates out by hundreds of years
  - Flood tectonics and volcanoes add  $C^{14}$  and compromise assumptions
  - Accurate tests require state of equilibrium which should take 30,000 years and we're not there yet

#### **What does the Bible say?**

- Genesis account of six literal days is confirmed numerous times (Exodus 20:11, John 5:45-47)
- Jesus referred to the creation and Genesis history as literal history (Matt 19:3-6, Mark 10:3-9, Luke 11:45-51, Matthew 24:36-39)
- Hebrew word used in Genesis 1 is *yom*, only times it's used and doesn't mean a literal day it says so in the context
- Hebrew grammar at the start of Genesis 1:2 indicates a direct flow of verses (old English equivalent 'to wit')

#### **How to apply it?**

- Realise and accept the level of direct and subversive 'indoctrination' of children from young age; not just school, also mass media
- Choice for the Christian is relying on the authority of the Word of God or man's fallible and ever changing ideas/theories
- Explain on a level that you and the person you're talking to are OK with, don't try and get more technical or scientific than you're comfortable with
- As children we are raised in a world that has largely accepted the concept of millions/billions of years; not just through schools, but also the mass media and childhood reading material

#### **Further Reading List**

The New Answers books edited by Ken Ham  
 Refuting Evolution 1 & 2 by Jonathan Sarfati  
 Darwin's Black Box by Michael J. Behe  
 The Language of God by Francis Collins  
 Starlight and time by Professor Richard Humphreys