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CHRISTIAN ARRAY

RESTORING THE RESTORATION
IN OUR GENERATION

NUMBER 8

JULY, 1990

LENGTH OF CREATION DAYS

INTRODUCTION

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1)

God created billions of stars, probably dozens of galaxies, probably hundreds of planets. The awesome power and size He gave to the stars makes our Sun look insignificant. The awesome power and size He gave to our Sun makes the earth look insignificant. Truly, our planet is a small speck in a remote corner of God's massive universe. Several creation periods ("days") into the creation process, God created the Sun with the possibility of defining the 24 hour period we call a day. Can you imagine that God said that during the first creation period I plan to create a 24 hour rotation period for the tiny planet earth, so I will accurately control all My activities to match them.

Within a period of one month, one elder told me that "it is a matter of faith that you must believe creation days were 24 hours long" and another elder told me that "you would have to be naive to believe that creation days were 24 hours long". I am not sure what "matter of faith" means, but I assumed that he meant that you would go to hell if you didn't believe that all creation days were exactly 24 hours long. Can the truth be known? Does it matter?

Certainly it matters! If the Bible teaches the days were exactly 24 hours long and you teach something else, you are teaching error. If the Bible does not teach that the days were exactly 24 hours long and you insist that they were, you are a teaching error. Can we justify teaching anything other than the truth for any reason?

NEEDED PROOFS:

Before we look at proofs, what kind of proof would you expect to see in the Bible (or world) to draw a firm conclusion? Some examples might be that the Bible says:

1. The creation days specifically were 24 hours long, or were specifically not 24 hours long.
2. The word day is never used unless it clearly means 24 hours, or is used where it means something other than 24 hours.
3. A special situation exists where numbered days always mean 24 hours and another term is used for numbered long period of time, or a numbered day clearly means something other than 24 hours.

If you have other objective criteria for insisting that the days of creation were exactly 24 hours long or were not, please list them and send them to me.

Evolutionists insist on a long creation period to provide time for the unlikely chance of evolution of life. If creationists insist on 24 hour creation periods, does the Bible mandate it or are they doing it so they can artificially defeat evolution in the hearer's mind before consideration starts?

ALTERNATIVE LENGTHS CREATION DAYS AVAILABLE:

- a. Every day was 24 hours.
- b. Every day was a length of time different than 24 hours (usually longer, but not necessarily).
- c. A combination of 24 hour days and days of other lengths.

SCRIPTURAL PROOFS THAT THE DAYS WERE ALL 24 HOURS

1. The word day is used in Genesis 1 and should be taken as 24 hours unless there is indication to the contrary.
2. The term day is repeated in Exodus 20:11 and Exodus 31:17 and was most likely considered by the tribes to be typical 24 hour days.
3. It is said that in each of the other 600+ times the word day (yom) is used with a number (i.e. third day) the context clearly indicates that it is referring to an earthly 24 hour day. (Possible responses: 1. There is no other occasion in the Bible with multiple figurative time periods for comparison; 2. There is not another historical instance in which the word "day" is used with a number for 1656 years (Gen. 7:4); & 3. The statement is not true as Genesis 7:4, Jonah 1:17, and Matthew 12:40 use the word day is used with a number to refer to only the part of the 24 hour period which is not night.)
4. The third day in Genesis 1:12 has plants growing without the benefit of the Sun, so it must have been a short period. (Possible response: 1. If God can create it He can make it live without the sun. 2. There was "light" from the first day, we are not given enough information to know what it was or how it functioned.)

SCRIPTURAL PROOFS THAT SOME DAYS COULD HAVE BEEN OTHER THAN 24 HOURS

1. The word day is used in Genesis 1 to indicate each of the creation periods and is used in Genesis 2:4 (ASV) to refer to the entire creation period, at least one of these must have been figurative and other than 24 hours. (Hebrew word "yom" used in both cases.)
2. Genesis is written with other figurative language, i.e. 1:4 says that God separated the light from the darkness. Darkness is the absence of light, so you cannot have darkness and light in the same place to be separated unless you are talking figuratively.

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3. Genesis 1:3 "Then God said". Implies that God breathed air over His vocal cords. In some sense God willed and it happened. Surely "said" is figurative language.
4. In Gen. 1:12 on the third day the earth brought forth plants to the point of yielding seeds and fruit, a process not typically associated with 24 hours. (God could have done it if He had chosen to.)
5. Day 1 included the massive job of creating the heavens and the earth. Day 4 included the equally massive job of creating the Sun, the Moon, and the stars. These creations were done without the benefit of the Earth's rotation relative to the Sun to establish a 24 hour period. Some creationist would have us to say to ourselves that God decided that He was going to make the Earth day 24 hours, and so I will constrain myself to work within that 24 hour time frame before it actually exists. Why would God have done that?

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF THE LENGTH OF DAYS

As God created the universe and wrote the Bible, scientific evidence should be in complete agreement with the Bible. As God did create the universe, Christians should have no fear of legitimate scientific proofs.

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCES THAT ALL DAYS WERE 24 HOURS

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing which you could call scientific evidence which proved that creation days were 24 hours rather than 25 hours or 23 hours or a thousand years. This does not mean that it is not true, just that you cannot scientifically prove it. We shall defer to the idea of demonstrating that the earth is relatively young.

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FOR A YOUNG EARTH (6-15,000 YEARS)

1. SHRINKAGE OF THE SUN: The Sun is shrinking at the rate of 0.1% per century, corresponding to a rate of 5 feet per hour. 100,000 years ago the Sun would have been twice its present size (and much hotter). 20,000,000 years ago the Sun would have been large enough that the earth's orbit would have been inside the Sun. The processes of creation of species by evolution are supposed to have been completed 20,000,000 years ago! (Note: The shrinkage rate of 0.1% per century would cause it to be $1.01^{60} = 1.817$ or 81.7% larger 6000 years ago than today. The world would probably be uninhabitable with the Sun being almost twice its present diameter. I would be suspicious of this "fact".)
2. DECAY OF THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD indicates a maximum span back to a time when the magnetic field was unimaginable large is 10,000 years. A half life of 1400 years means that the the magnetic field would have been 32 times stronger 7000 years ago that it is now. 28,000 years ago it would have been more than one million times stronger than it is now. (This point could be invalidated due to fluctuating magnetic fields)

3. HYDROGEN IN THE UNIVERSE: Hydrogen is constantly converted to helium in the universe and cannot be reproduced in significant quantities. The extent of the remaining hydrogen indicates a relatively young earth.
4. COSMIC DUST: Cosmic dust is landing on the earth at the rate of 14 million tons per year. If the earth were 4.5 billion years old, the layer of cosmic dust should be 50-200 feet thick. It is not.
6. POPULATION STATISTICS: The current rate of population growth is used to demonstrate that if the man had been here for 1,000,000 years, the population would be 500 times the present population. To me this data is not convincing as one severe plague could completely restart the population process.
7. THE INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH has predicted the age of the earth based upon the principle of Uniformitarianism and measurement of 76 different influxes, effluxes, leachings, accumulations, decays, and formations. A sample of these are:
 - a. Influx of aluminum into the oceans via rivers: 100 years,
 - b. Formation of river deltas: 5000 years,
 - c. Influx of gold into the oceans via rivers: 560,000 years, and
 - d. Deceleration of earth by tidal friction: 500,000,000 years.
8. The oldest living things known are the Bristlecone Pines in California which are only about 4000 years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCES FOR AN OLD EARTH (4.5 BILLION YEARS)

1. DATING OF ROCKS is a potential proof. The decay of uranium to lead, radioactive potassium to argon, and of rubidium to strontium each indicate approximately 4.5 billion years from the pure state to the present state, based upon pure formation and Uniformitarianism.
 - a. The processes used and assumptions made are highly suspect. It should be noted that evolutionists have accepted the oldest dating theory which they could find to provide sufficient time for evolutionary theories to work.
 - b. It is impossible to predict what state the materials were created in, i.e. rocks may be created in a state which a scientist would say today would take a billion years to decay to on the assumption of pure formation.
 - c. Scientists know actual ages of materials of 2-3000 years and are trying to extrapolate back to a date 1,000,000 times the known date range. Other scientific endeavors do not tolerate such extrapolation.
 - d. Radiometric dating has shown certain rocks from volcanoes in Russia to be 5 billion years old, whereas they were known to be less than 200 years old and Hawaiian lava flows less than 200 years old to be 3 billion years old.
 - e. Carbon-14 is absorbed from the atmosphere as carbon dioxide by plants and animals, and then starts to decay to nitrogen-14 when the organism dies. Makes questionable assumption

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that ancient atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were the same as today. Carbon-14 dating of some living mollusks determined that the shells showed C-14 ages of up to 2300 years and some new wood to be 10,000 years old.

2. LIGHT we are seeing from parts of our Milky Way Galaxy is coming from stars which are 80,000 light years away, therefore existed 80,000 years ago. (The Milky Way is 100,000 light years across and we are 30,000 light years from the center) We are also seeing stars in other galaxies which are several billion light years away. If Genesis 1:16 is taken literally to mean that God made all the stars on the fourth day, then the fourth day would have been happening several billion years ago.
3. ACCUMULATION OF SEDIMENTS can be used as an index of time. In 1854 a statue of Ramases II from 1200 B.C. was found buried under 9 feet of river mud. This worked out to 3.5 inches per century. The Grand Canyon has approximately 1 mile of sedimentary rock exposed which would relate to approximately 2 million years. This would be a minimum as the weight of the column would tend to compress lower layers.

Possible response: A uniformitarian rate of sediments of 3.5" per century is not credible. Numerous instances of massive sedimentation have been demonstrated to have happened in a short period of time, i.e. in the Mount St. Helens volcano. A case has been found of three different sedimentation layers assigned millions of years to have formed, only to find later that a single tree trunk passed thru all three layers. This could happen easily in a massive flooding such as in Noah's day where three sedimentation layers could have been washed in before the tree trunk could have decayed.

Second response: Sedimentation rates of 3.5" per century do not preserve any fossils except a few hard shells. For almost any fossil to be preserved, it must have been buried quickly in a thick enough sedimentation layer to protect it from other living things and the atmosphere. This would tend to demonstrate catastrophic sedimentation conditions such as major floods.

RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS IN SCIENCE

At the present time I can only report supposed scientific "facts" and the conflicts in the scientific "facts" which are given by different individuals. I do not presume that I can assure you of which of the facts are actually true and which are not true. There are sincere believers on both sides of this issue. As time passes, I am sure that we will learn more about which of the facts are true.

It is my observation that both sides play a little loosely with stating "facts",

misquoting "facts", and extrapolating with "facts". I do not question the sincerity of anyone on this subject, I feel like they are being over zealous to emphasize what might support their conclusions and tend to ignoring or discount anything that might differ with their conclusions. They are, in other words, human.

Many scientist advocate the oldest date they can find as implied by the any of the testing methods and any assumptions, and this is judged by creationist to be biased to find time for the possibility of evolution. Creationists look for short lengths of time, which is judged by evolutionists to be to fit their bias toward a recent creation by God.

Given that all of the methods of dating assume that the original substances or situations were formed in a pure state, it appears to me that it is the most logical to believe the shortest date. This would then cause you to conclude that the other substances or situations were not formed in a pure state, only the one with the shortest date could have been formed in the pure state. You can't do the opposite and assume the longest date to be true, and then conclude that the others were formed at something more than a "pure" state. That would be in clear violation of the scientific principle of Uniformitarianism. Given this logic, we see from influx of aluminum into the ocean above that the earth is only 100 years old. HMMMMM. I guess we will have to wait for more specific scientific information.

CONCLUSION

Some look at the evidences and see exactly 24 hours. Some look at the same evidences and see 4.5 billion years. I look at evidences on each side and see information which does not fully support or mandate either conclusion.

Like it or not, the descriptions in Genesis are general enough to allow either conclusion. What we know for sure is that God was the creator. You can believe in 24 hour days, 24 million year days, or 24 minute days. You still must consider the word "day" (yom) to be figurative in either Genesis 1 or Genesis 2.

I will defend the fact that God created the heavens and the earth, your right to interpret how long God took doing it, and your right to teach your interpretation as your interpretation. I will stand against you if you if you try to teach your personal interpretation as "a matter of faith".

LEADERSHIP DECISIVENESS

"Unsolved problems never go away. They always return to haunt us and frequently postponement in making a decision compounds the problem." "Elders should strive to be wisely decisive. In the absence of decisiveness, leaders are perceived to be ineffective and soon lose control." James O. Baird, Christian Chronicle June, 1990.

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FAIRY TALE OF THE FAITHLESS

Religion has been called "opiate of the masses". It teaches directly that religion sort of deadens the sensibilities of the ignorant peoples. It also indirectly teaches that intelligent people know (or at least believe) something other than religion. The opposite of religion is atheism, atheism leads inevitably to believe in creation of life by accident and the development of life by macro evolution.

Evolution is a fairy tale. A fairy tale is a pleasing story which is made up and for which there is no proof. Evolution is pleasing to those who do not want to submit to God, those who want to think of themselves as gods. We have discussed in the last issue that there is no proof of evolution over creation. None. Nada. Zip. It qualifies as a fairy tale. That part of the title is correct. The last part is only half right.

If faith is taken to be belief in a supreme being, evolutionist are faithless. However, if faith is the belief in something for which there is none or is only partial proof, evolutionists have faith, a lot of faith. At least in the first sense, evolution is the fairy tale of the faithless!

EVENTS CALENDAR:

AREA WIDE CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Sept. 21-23, 1990: Creation Evolution Seminar, Memorial, 464-0271

AREA WIDE YOUTH EVENTS:

Aug. 6 Area-Wide Devo @ Bammel Road
 Aug. 13 Area-Wide Devo @ Kingwood

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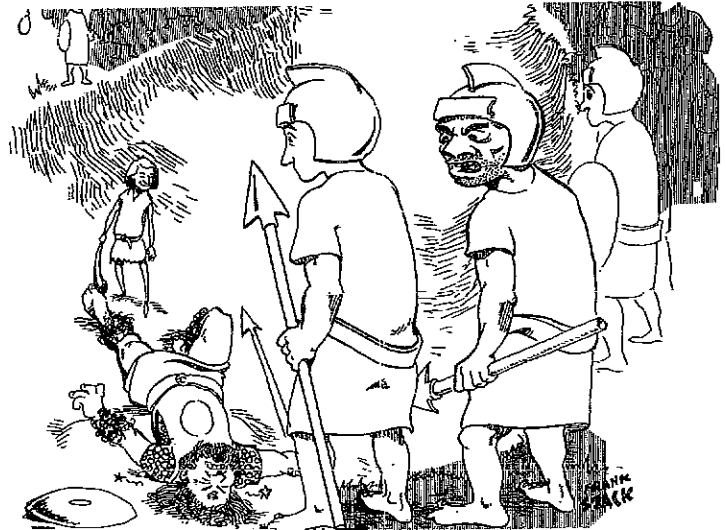
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED

There appears to be a universal tendency to drift off course in every generation. Like a car on a road, if not steered it will surely run into the right or left ditch. Any generation which does not take control of the steering wheel and does not consciously turn back to the center of the path will continue further off course.

Any generation which does not trim their direction back to the scriptures will surely drift off course.

When 10% of the members quit studying the Bible, 10% of the members are in trouble. When 50% of the members effectively stop studying the Bible, the elders are in trouble.

"The difference between a succesful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, butrather a lack of will."
 Vince T. Lombardi



Boy! That's the dirtiest trick I ever saw.