

## **Some Thoughts on the Creation, Universe, and Early Human History (Abridged)**

### *Introduction*

As a physicist who like to carefully investigate things, having published papers involving the atmospheres of the planet Jupiter and the star Arcturus in astrophysics journals, and much more importantly to me, a serious (but flawed) Christian, I would like to present some of my views of the Creation and the Bible.

While the Bible is not a scientific textbook, there are some basic facts in the Bible which I would consider to be indisputable if one trusts the Bible.

### *Human Lifespan Ten Times Longer Prior to the Biblical Flood*

The Bible clearly states that people had lifespans of close to 1000 years from the time of Adam until after the Flood. Adam lived 930 years (Gen. 5:5), and Methuselah lived 969 years (Gen. 5:27). Noah was 500 years old when he fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 5:32) and 600 when the Flood came (Gen. 7:11). Noah lived 950 years (Gen. 9:29). He lived for approximately 350 years after the Flood. We know for sure that Noah, the ark, the Flood, and the devastation of the human race are historical events, especially because Christ referred to them all in one breath and compared the times of Noah to His Second Coming (Luke 17:26-27). [Peter also refers to Noah in 1 Peter 3:20 and 2 Peter 2:5, and Noah is included in the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11:7.] These data are EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT! Things in the ancient world were much different, especially because people lived much longer. We have lost 90% of their lifespan. After the Flood, lifespans started dropping.

Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, lived around 1900 BC and lived for 175 years (Gen. 25:7). His wife Sarah lived for 127 years (Gen. 23:1). Their son Isaac lived for 180 years (Gen. 35:28). Isaac and Rebekah's son, Jacob, lived for 147 years (Gen. 47:28). Isaac and Rebekah had been married for almost 100 years when Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac. Jacob was about 73 when he fell in love with Rachel and 80 when he married her and Leah and started fathering the 12 tribes of Israel (please contact me for references and calculations). Around 3700 years ago, at age 130, Jacob was lamenting "few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage" (Gen. 47:9). Jacob and Rachel's son, Joseph, lived to be 110 (Gen. 50:22).

It appears that conditions were vastly different before the time of the Flood as compared with today. Perhaps the atmosphere, such as the amount of water vapor present, was quite different.

### *Model of Creation*

As best I can now tell, the young earth with a worldwide devastating flood theory is the best explanation of the Biblical description of the world as well as the universe as we now observe it

scientifically. While we need to consider each type of data individually, it's a matter of the assumptions one makes and how one interprets and works with the scientific observations.

### *Pangea*

If we look at the various continents, we can see that they fit together like the pieces of a puzzle into one continent called Pangea. For example, observe how the east coast of South America fits into the west coast of Africa. It appears that Pangea was broken up into the present-day continents. While there are various evolutionary theories as to how this came about, a catastrophic worldwide flood could be a cause of this phenomenon. We can consider Genesis 6:11, about the fountains of the great deep being broken up, and Genesis 10:25, about the earth being divided.

### *Uniformitarianism*

One of the basic assumptions of evolutionary theory is that things on the earth have operated in the same way for the last several billion or so years. If there was a time in which humans lived close to 1000 years, that is probably not a good assumption. It appears quite probable that in order for humans to live about 10 times longer than they do now, atmospheric or some other conditions were somewhat different. Therefore, the uniformitarianism assumption for things on earth may not be valid.

### *Things Created as a Functioning System*

In the Biblical account of Creation, the universe with its virtually infinite number of stars was created *as a functioning system* with, for example, different types of stars such as white dwarfs and red giants. We didn't have to wait for one type of star to evolve into another or have to wait for light to reach us from some distant object to know of its existence. It was created with the light from that object reaching us and we don't have to wait until the light reaches us to know that it exists. Therefore, assuming that we are viewing an object as it appeared at a previous time would not be correct.

### *Sabbath Rest*

God rested on the seventh day; Creation was completed. As best I can tell, the concept of God resting on the seventh day and the concept of honoring the Sabbath Day makes sense only if there was a six day creation with God resting on the seventh day. It seems to me that considering a day as a long period (as in the old-earth creationist *day-age* theory) makes no sense in this context, i.e., the Lord resting for a long period of time, which would be the seventh day. To me this concept is emphasized because the penalty for working on the seventh 24-hour period is death. To say that the penalty is death for working on an undefined long period of time, rather than a 24-hour day, is meaningless.

### *God Speaks Plainly to Moses*

Concerning the things Moses (the author of the Pentateuch) has told us in Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch, we have God saying in Numbers 12:6-8 that He speaks with Moses “face to face” and “plainly and not in dark sayings.” This appears to me an admonition to take what Moses says in Genesis (and the Pentateuch) very seriously and perhaps to also take the statements that Christ makes about things Moses says, such as statements regarding Noah, the ark, and the Flood even more seriously.

### *Jesus Christ, the Ultimate Scientist*

Please consider Colossians 1:15-17: “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” (NASB 1995).

This passage states that Christ holds all things together. Just think about gravity. What is it? Gravity is a field that exerts force between different bodies. The gravitational force between the earth and ourselves keeps us from drifting off into outer space. The gravitational forces between the earth, sun, moon, and planets keep everything in order. Yet, what is gravity? It is an invisible force that just exists. Its behavior is well described by mathematical equations, starting with those of Sir Isaac Newton. So we can predict its behavior, but we don’t know what it is and can’t see it. This example leads me to say that physics is more of a description of nature than an understanding of it. As best I can tell, the laws of gravity and the statement in Colossians that Christ holds all things together are totally consistent with each other.

Similar things can be said about electric and magnetic fields and forces, as well as nuclear forces.

While Jesus Christ is holding the universe together, we humans have the laws of physics which are simply a *description in the form of mathematical equations* of some aspects of nature, which result in some very useful applications.

### *Closing Remarks*

In closing, I would like to make several statements that I apply to this discussion.

The above discussion presents a framework on which I base my beliefs at this time concerning the origin of the universe, the early earth, and the early history of man.

The existence of phenomena and objects such as the expansion of the universe and all the marvelous observed features such as black holes, dark matter and energy, galaxies and nebulae, I would argue, are totally consistent with the Biblical account of creation. However, one needs to be careful about conclusions that scientists may try to draw from these observations.

No matter what your position is, there are a lot of hard unanswered questions. I am always interested in considering these.

In checking out evolutionary theory and supposed proofs of those theories, we need to check the original assumptions that are always involved. Sometimes in my opinion, they may not be correct, such as assuming that the atmosphere of the earth has been the same as we know it now for the last so many thousand years. If humans had lifespans of about a thousand years several thousand years ago, the atmosphere may have been much different, possibly containing significantly more water vapor.

Don't be afraid to question "science." My colleagues and I do it to each other all the time; it's part of the discipline. Science has become an idol in our society. Although it has been the source of some great advancements, it is held in much higher esteem than is appropriate, especially when trying to use it to determine our origins. This situation is, in my opinion, a prime example of man worshipping something in the creation rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25).

If God created the universe out of nothing in six 24-hour days perhaps around some 10,000 years ago, and then rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, there are probably aspects of the creation that we humans can't understand, reconstruct, or theorize about. God is not bound by the laws of physics. Our Lord walked on water and appeared to disciples out of thin air! Not to mention our Lord rising from the dead and conquering death!

Beware of statements of the type indicating that something in evolutionary theory "has been proved to be true..."

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ was involved in the Creation as well as the Father and the Spirit. Reflecting on this, as well as His being our Savior, in working on this write-up, has given me a new awe, reverence and wonderment as to Who He is.

I am always reviewing and revising my model. Any new insight would be appreciated.