



HOW OLD IS THE EARTH?

By George Lujack

Scripture and recent scientific discoveries show that there are many components of the Earth, components that make the Earth both young (around 6,000-years-old) AND much older. This article will discuss the various age of the Earth theories while presenting an in-depth comprehensive study that supports old Earth creationism.

Young Earth Creationists and Evolution Theory Scientists disagree passionately over their beliefs on the age of the Earth. Young Earth Creationists generally believe that the universe, the Earth, and the first creatures upon the Earth were created approximately 6,000-years ago. Evolution Theory Scientists currently believe that the universe is approximately 14-billion-years-old, the Earth is 4.5-billion-years-old, and the first self-replicating life forms evolved upon the Earth about 2.5-billion-years ago. Young Earth Creationists make errors in Scripture interpretation while evolution theorists hold unproven, unscientific, unsubstantiated, and faith-based beliefs to support their worldview.

The words “IN THE BEGINNING” and “THE EARTH WAS” are key phrases in understanding the timeframe of God’s creation and will be emphasized throughout this article, along with some other key words.

GENESIS 1:1-2 (NKJV):

IN THE BEGINNING God created the heavens and the earth. THE EARTH WAS without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.

BERESHITH (GENESIS) 1:1-2 (HSV):

IN THE BEGINNING Elohim created the shamayim and the earth. And THE EARTH CAME TO BE formless and empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep.

The phrases “THE EARTH WAS,” or “CAME TO BE,” are past tense indicating a significant passage of time. Therefore there was a significant passage of time between IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1) and day-1 of creation week, when God created light for the Earth (Genesis 1:2-3).

Genesis 1:2 states that THE EARTH WAS without form or CAME TO BE formless (for life) and void (of life). If IN THE BEGINNING were day-1 of the creation week, it would be pointless for God to declare the obvious, that THE EARTH WAS without form and void. Of course the Earth would have been without form (to sustain life) and void (of life) if God, hypothetically, had just made it! The fact that Scripture declares that THE EARTH WAS without form and void indicates a passage of time.

God purposely declared that IN THE BEGINNING THE EARTH WAS without form (to sustain life) and void (of life) to negate the idea of Evolution Theory. Life did not arise from non-life, nor did God use evolution as a means, over time, to produce life upon the planet. THE EARTH WAS without form (to sustain life) and void (of life) throughout its ancient past. God formed the Earth and created all life upon it, according to their kinds, during the 6-day creation week (Genesis 1:21-25).

THE EARTH WAS there, created IN THE BEGINNING, before creation week began in Genesis 1:3. THE EARTH WAS without form (water covered the planet and it did not have a life-sustaining, breathable atmosphere) and THE EARTH WAS void (of life) (Genesis 1:2). Creation week served to form the Earth, to make it suitable to support life, and to inhabit it with life.

IN THE BEGINNING... when was that? Was it 6,000-years-ago, 4.5-billion-years ago, or 14-billion-years ago? No one can know for sure (at this time) when THE BEGINNING of time and creation occurred. Scripture does not declare when the beginning of God's creation was. We can reasonably conclude that IN THE BEGINNING represents a significant period of time and signifies an interval of time before God acted in creating light for the Earth in Genesis 1:3. The beginning was therefore ages longer than 6,000-years ago.

GENESIS 2:4 (KJV):

These are THE GENERATIONS of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

GENESIS 2:4 (NKJV):

This is THE HISTORY of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

The heavens and the Earth experienced generations of time, a significant history, after they were created IN THE BEGINNING, and before God revisited the Earth during the 6-day creation week. During the creation week account in Genesis, there is no mention of God making the Earth itself; that is, God did not create THE FOUNDATION of the Earth: the core, crust, dirt, mantle, mountains, rocks, soil, or water of the Earth during creation week. The land and water of THE EARTH WAS already in place before creation week began. The land and water of THE EARTH WAS created IN THE BEGINNING and was not made during the creation week of Genesis 1:3-22.

THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF CREATION:

IN THE BEGINNING:

GENESIS 1:1-2:

IN THE BEGINNING God created the heavens and the earth. THE EARTH WAS without form, and void; ...

The heavens (universe) and THE FOUNDATION of the Earth were created.

CREATION WEEK (*After* THE BEGINNING):

CREATION WEEK DAY-1:

GENESIS 1:3-5:

Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Light was created for the Earth on day-1 (Genesis 1:3-5). The light created on the first day was not the Sun, nor the beginning of creation, nor the ‘Big Bang,’ but temporary light created to illuminate the Earth before the illumination of the Sun on day-4 of creation week.

CREATION WEEK DAY-2:

GENESIS 1:6-8:

Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters that were under the firmament from the waters that were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

A life-sustaining breathable atmosphere was made for the Earth, referred to as ‘firmament’ and ‘heaven’ on day-2 (Genesis 1:6-8).

CREATION WEEK DAY-3:

GENESIS 1:9-13:

Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. ... So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Water (on Earth) was gathered together and separated from the land. The water gathered together was called seas and the dry land was called Earth. God also brought forth grass and vegetation upon the dry land on day-3.

NOTE:

On day-3 the waters and the dry land were not made or created. The waters and land were already in existence, as they were of the Earth that was created IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1). The waters were GATHERED away from the land causing dry land to APPEAR. God did not make the Earth, the seas, and the dry land on day-3; He merely gathered the already existing waters together and formed the seas and He raised the already existing land, that became dry land after the water was gathered away from it, causing the dry land to appear to form the continents (Genesis 1:9).

CREATION WEEK DAY-4:

GENESIS 1:14-19:

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness... So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

The Sun was illuminated and light was made to shine upon the Earth - the sunlight for the day and the moonlight for the night on day-4. The Sun and Moon were also to be used for signs, seasons, days, and years (dating and calendars) (Genesis 1:14-19).

NOTE:

God made the two great ‘lights’ (Genesis 1:16). Many creationists proclaim that the Sun and Moon were created on day-4, but Scripture says God made “two great lights,” not the Sun and Moon. It is likely that He did not create the Sun and Moon on day-4, but instead ignited and illuminated the Sun, creating the two great light sources for the Earth; the Sun for the day and the Moon for the night.

NOTE:

“He made the stars also,” (Genesis 1:16) is a confirmation of what God had *already done* IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1), rather than a proclamation that He made the stars on day-4 of creation week.

The sentence context within the paragraph structure of Genesis 1:16 is like saying, “General Motors employees made this new model car on day-4 (Wednesday). They made the GM factory also.” One would not logically conclude that the General Motors workers made the factory on the same day-4 that they made its new model car. We likewise shouldn’t believe that God made all of the countless trillions of stars of the universe on the same day that He ignited the Sun to illuminate the Earth.

God created the heavens (cosmos / stars) IN THE BEGINNING, not on day-1 of creation week when God created light to illuminate the Earth, nor on day-4 of creation week when God reaffirmed “He made the stars also.”

All throughout the creation week account, when God created, Scripture records God’s actions in a consistent sequential manner indicating an action having taken place or completed as God spoke the creation into existence. If God created the stars, all of them, on day-4 of creation week, Scripture would be more concise to say something like, “Then God said, ‘Let there be many stars throughout the heavens.’ And it was so.” Scripture does not say this as Genesis 1:16 fleetingly proclaims, “He made the stars also.”

CREATION WEEK DAY-5:

GENESIS 1:20-23:

Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.”

So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

All the sea creatures and the birds were created on day-5.

CREATION WEEK DAY-6:

GENESIS 1:24-31:

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind.

And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ... So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

All the land creatures and mankind were created on day-6.

CREATION WEEK DAY-7:

GENESIS 2:2-3:

And on the seventh day God ended His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work that God had created and made.

God rested from all His work that He had done on day-7.

THE CREATION, IN SUMMATION:

IN THE BEGINNING:

God created the heavens (the universe) and THE FOUNDATION of the Earth (Genesis 1:1).

CREATION WEEK DAY-1:

God created temporary light for the Earth by saying, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3).

CREATION WEEK DAY-2:

God made Earth’s atmosphere (firmament / heaven) (Genesis 1:6).

CREATION WEEK DAY-3:

God gathered the existing water that was on Earth to form seas and let the dry land appear (Genesis 1:9). God then created the grass, herbs, fruit trees, and all vegetation on the dry land (Genesis 1:11).

CREATION WEEK DAY-4:

God made the two great light sources for the Earth (Genesis 1:16). He ignited and illuminated the Sun to light the Earth for the day and for the Moon to reflect the Sun's light at night. The Sun and Moon were also to be used for signs, seasons, days and calendar years.

CREATION WEEK DAY-5:

God created all the sea creatures and all the birds (Genesis 1:20).

CREATION WEEK DAY-6:

God created all the land creatures and mankind (Genesis 1:24-27).

CREATION WEEK DAY-7:

God rested from all His work that He had done (Genesis 2:2).

The creation week consisted of six 24-hour periods, NOT ages or periods of time. Upon completion of each day of creation week, it was recorded, "And the evening and the morning were the first day," ... through the sixth day, indicating six 24-hour night and day periods.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE GOD TO CREATE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH?

GENESIS 2:4:

... IN THE DAY that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

God made the heavens and the Earth IN THE BEGINNING, in a SINGLE DAY. Afterward God formed the Earth to sustain life and created life upon the Earth during the 6-day creation week. IN THE DAY God made the Earth and the heavens was IN THE BEGINNING, before the 6-day creation week. IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1) was a time period before God measured Earth's days in 24-hour intervals, counting the evening and the morning for each day (Genesis 1:5,8,13,19,23,31).

God made the Earth and heavens in a single day according to Genesis 2:4. What is a day to an eternal God? Scripture reveals that one day to God is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as one day (2 Peter 3:8). God most likely took about 1,000 Earth years (one day to Him) to create the vast cosmos and the Earth (Genesis 1:1-2, 2:4; 2 Peter 3:8). After those thousand years, or one God-day, God ruled over His creation in glory before THE EARTH WAS formed to sustain life (John 17:5). Then God formed the Earth for life and created life upon the Earth during the 6-day creation week (Genesis 1:3-31).

YOUNG EARTH CREATIONISTS

Young Earth Creationists believe that the Earth and the entire universe were created approximately 6,000-years ago. They base their calculations on the generations of Scripture going back chronologically to about 4,000 B.C. Young Earth Creationists have incorrectly linked the age of the Earth with the time that life first appeared upon the Earth. Scripture declares that THE EARTH WAS in existence IN THE BEGINNING *prior* to the creation week. Young Earth Creationists err in not understanding that the Earth is old, believing and proclaiming the physical Earth to be young, coming into existence about 6,000-years ago.

Many Young Earth Creationists believe that proclaiming the Earth to be old “opens the door” for evolution. This is not so. No amount of time, be it hundreds, thousands, billions, trillions, or even an eternity of years could cause life to come from non-life.

God created the heavens and the Earth IN THE BEGINNING, then revisited the Earth some time afterward, approximately 6,000-years ago, and THE EARTH WAS *still* void (of life) and without form (to sustain life). Life did not arise from non-life, nor could it, nor did God use evolution as a means of creating all the various kinds of life on Earth.

Scripture declares that THE EARTH WAS of old, created IN THE BEGINNING existing in a state that was without form and void of life. When God revisited the Earth it was still without form (to sustain life) and void (of life) (Genesis 1:2). Then God acted upon the Earth that was without form and void, to form the Earth to sustain life and then created all the kinds of life upon it, approximately 6,000-years ago.

The heavens and the Earth, God’s declared “works of old,” refute the idea that the Earth and universe are relatively young.

PSALM 102:25:

OF OLD You laid THE FOUNDATION of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

NOTE:

THE FOUNDATION of the Earth is OF OLD. The Earth’s foundation was created IN THE BEGINNING, long ago, and then God FINISHED the Earth approximately 6,000-years ago during the 6-day creation week (Genesis 2:1).

PROVERBS 8:22-23:

YHWH (the Lord) possessed Me at the beginning of His way, before His works OF OLD. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there ever was an earth.

2 TIMOTHY 1:9:

His own purpose and grace that was given to us in Messiah Yeshua (Christ Jesus) BEFORE TIME BEGAN...

TITUS 1:2:

In hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised BEFORE TIME BEGAN...

God existed before time itself began. God created time, which did have a beginning.

2 PETER 3:5:

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were OF OLD.

The heavens are OF OLD, created IN THE BEGINNING.

JOHN 17:5:

“And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory that I had with You BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.”

The world was created IN THE BEGINNING, yet Yeshua (Jesus) speaks of a time that He was glorified with the Father BEFORE THE WORLD WAS. Yeshua (Jesus) was reigning throughout the cosmos with the Father in glory, BEFORE THE WORLD WAS *formed for life* during the 6-day creation week.

To believe that the entire universe, the Earth, and all matter came into existence 6,000-years ago is a quandary itself and places God in a box. It would mean that God existed in a vacuum of space and time. It limits God as a Creator to a 6-day period, 6,000-years ago. No artist or creator works for 6-days, having never created before, or after, his or her one-week of work. Young Earth Creationists basically believe God did just that.

IN THE BEGINNING signals the creation of time, the time the physical universe, as we know it, began. IN THE BEGINNING God created matter, space, and time. Time was created *before* creation week. Yeshua (Jesus) reigned with the Father in glory, *before* THE WORLD WAS, which indicates a time period before the world was formed 6,000-years ago.

There are several hundred billion stars that form our Milky Way Galaxy and there are an estimated one hundred billion known galaxies. The universe is so vast; there are more stars in the universe than all the grains of sand on all the Earth's beaches. The Earth, in comparison to the vast cosmos, is infinitesimally small. All things are possible with God, but to believe that God spent six-24-hour days creating the Earth and one-24-hour day creating the entire universe is overwhelmingly disproportional and a very Earth-centric view of the creation that is not supported through a careful examination of Scripture.

2 PETER 3:8:

With YHWH (the Lord) one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Understanding that time is relative - according to science (Einstein's Theory of Relativity), and God lives outside-of-time, what is a thousand years to us is as one day to God.

Young Earth Creationists often cite Exodus 20:11 and 31:17 to support their belief that the Earth and universe were created 6,000-years ago.

EXODUS 20:11:

For in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.

EXODUS 31:17:

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

These two verses are the strongest argument Young Earth Creationists use as Scriptural proof that God created the entire universe and the Earth in six literal days, approximately 6,000-years ago. Upon careful examination of these verses, using a precept upon precept comparison with other verses, this is not the case at all.

The Hebrew word for heaven(s) is shamayim. Shamayim, or heaven, is used interchangeably throughout Scripture as meaning God's dwelling place, the universe, the cosmos, the sky, or atmosphere [1]. Scripture itself, in the Genesis account, reveals that the word 'heaven' is used to refer to Earth's firmament (atmosphere / sky). A key verse in understanding mystery of God's creation is Genesis 1:8.

GENESIS 1:8:

And God called the firmament Heaven.

In Exodus 20:11 and 31:17, the word 'heaven' (singular) is used, not 'heavens' (plural) indicating that 'heaven' is referring to Earth's firmament (atmosphere) and not the heavenly cosmos.

Another Scripture example:

GENESIS 7:19:

And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.

The 'global' flood did not flood the whole heavenly universe. During the global flood, all the high hills under the whole heaven (Earth's atmosphere) were covered. 'Heaven,' when used in Genesis 7:19, Exodus 20:11, and 31:17, refers to the Earth's atmosphere / firmament / sky (Genesis 1:8).

A correct interpretation of Exodus 20:11 and 31:17 should be understood to mean:

EXODUS 20:11:

For in six days YHWH (the Lord) made the heaven [SKY] and the earth [SUITABLE FOR LIFE], the sea, and all [LIFE] that is in them, and rested the seventh day.

EXODUS 31:17:

For in six days YHWH (the Lord) made heaven [EARTH'S SKY] and earth [SUITABLE FOR LIFE], and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Young Earth Creationists have a paradox dilemma: When were the stars created? They believe IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1) represents day-1 of creation week, but most Young Earth Creationists believe the stars were created on day-4 of creation week (Genesis 1:16).

GENESIS 1:1:

IN THE BEGINNING God created the heavens [INCLUDING THE STARS] and the earth.

GENESIS 1:16,19:

He made the stars also. ... So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

The stars were created IN THE BEGINNING, which was long before day-1 of creation week. Genesis 1:16 is a confirmation that God made the stars also - IN THE BEGINNING. The two great lights - the Sun and Moon, were illuminated on day-4 of creation week.

TWO SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCES THAT SUPPORT AN OLD EARTH

There are two well-established, hard to refute, observable evidences that the lifeless, non-organic, physical Earth, and the universe are old and did not come into existence 6,000-years ago.

1. DISTANT STARLIGHT

Distant starlight from galaxies far, far away, which takes far longer than 6,000-years to reach Earth at light speed, is visible on Earth. The oldest known detected starlight to reach Earth has been calculated to be over 13-billion-years old.

Distant starlight, starlight that takes billions years to reach Earth, is observable scientific evidence that stars are much older than 6,000-years. Young Earth Creationists negate the science that measures and estimates the time distant starlight reaches Earth, by citing the following verse:

ISAIAH 42:5:

Thus says God YHWH (the Lord), who created the heavens and stretched them out.

God did create the heavens, and He did stretch them out. The universe is still expanding to this day and its expansion is believed to be accelerating, not decelerating. Young Earth Creationists generally believe that God created the stars on day-4 of creation week, and then He stretched the stars outward while stretching their starlight back toward Earth so that distant, otherwise unobservable, starlight would be visible on Earth.

Young Earth Creationists' theory is that God stretched back the light omitted from stars to Earth, while simultaneously stretching forth the stars outward faster than the speed of light throughout the universe, to account for distant starlight. Young Earth Creationists also theorize that the speed of light traveling through space may not have been constant in ages past. What Young Earth Creationists are proclaiming is that God supernaturally stretched forth the stars to make it appear that distant starlight takes billions of years to reach Earth or that somehow light speeding through space was somehow much faster thousands of years ago, allowing us to see stars billions of light years away.

God doesn't trick us with the evidences and timeframes of His creation. Young Earth Creationists' theory accounting for distant starlight that takes billions of years to reach Earth is completely unscientific and should be outright dismissed.

2. CRATER IMPACTS

Asteroids, comets, and meteors colliding with the ancient Earth left many detectable and observable crater impacts. Many of Earth's crater impact areas, while still detectable, have been worn away over thousands, millions, or billions of years through erosion on an active Earth. The most preserved crater impact site, Meteor Crater in Arizona, USA, is the result of a collision between an asteroid and planet Earth that occurred approximately 50,000-years ago.

HOW CAN BELIEVERS KNOW THAT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AND THE PHYSICAL EARTH WERE CREATED "IN THE BEGINNING" AND NOT MADE DURING THE 6-DAY CREATION WEEK?

1. IN THE BEGINNING does not indicate the start of day-1 of God's 6-day creation week. IN THE BEGINNING represents a significant span of time before day-1. After the original creation IN THE BEGINNING and after the end of each day of the creation week, the start of each new creation day begins with the phrase, "Then God said..."

"IN THE BEGINNING (not day-1) God created the heavens and the Earth" (Genesis 1:1).

Day-1 STARTS: "Then God said..." (Gen. 1:3), Day-1 ENDS (Gen. 1:5).

Day-2 STARTS: "Then God said..." (Gen. 1:6), Day-2 ENDS (Gen. 1:8).

Day-3 STARTS: "Then God said..." (Gen. 1:9), Day-3 ENDS (Gen. 1:13).

Day-4 STARTS: "Then God said..." (Gen. 1:14), Day-4 ENDS (Gen. 1:19).

Day-5 STARTS: "Then God said..." (Gen. 1:20), Day-5 ENDS (Gen. 1:23).

Day-6 STARTS: "Then God said..." (Gen. 1:24), Day-6 ENDS (Gen. 1:31).

It would be inconsistent for God to start day-1 of creation week with the phrase, "IN THE BEGINNING," and start all the other days of the week with the phrase, "Then God said..."

2. Genesis 1:1-2 proclaims that THE EARTH "WAS" in existence before the creation week.

3. Genesis 1:3-31 covers the creation week, but does NOT record the Earth itself as being created on this week. On creation days 1 through 6, there is no verse that says God created THE FOUNDATION of the Earth on any of those days, but Scripture declares THE EARTH WAS created IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1). Planet Earth's foundation existed of old, from IN THE BEGINNING, before creation week began (Psalm 102:25). God acted upon an already existing Earth on creation days 1-6, when He made the Earth suitable for life and inhabited it with life.

4. Yeshua (Jesus) was reigning in the cosmos / universe with God the Father BEFORE THE WORLD WAS formed for life (John 17:5). THE EARTH WAS made IN THE BEGINNING, so Yeshua (Jesus) was reigning throughout the cosmos with the Father IN THE BEGINNING, but *before* THE WORLD WAS (formed for life) during the 6-day creation week.

5. The heavens and Earth experienced a history or generations of time (Genesis 2:4). A history or generations of the heavens and the Earth do not represent a 1-week period. THE DAY (Genesis 2:4), the God-day that God made the heavens and the Earth lasted about 1,000-years (2 Peter 3:8).

6. Scripture proclaims THE FOUNDATION of the Earth to be OF OLD (Psalm 102:25).

7. Numerous crater impacts upon the Earth are much older than 6-000-years.

THE GAP THEORY

There are some theologians who understand the gap between IN THE BEGINNING and creation week day-1. However, many who proclaim the Gap Theory add to Scripture with their own personal opinions and theories that are unsubstantiated by Scripture.

The traditional Gap Theory proposes that the phrase “without form and void,” of Genesis 1:2 should actually be translated “ruined and desolate.”

It proposes that Satan and his demons once inhabited the Earth, with the dinosaurs, and God brought forth a divine cataclysmic judgment upon the Earth, similar to the flood of Noah’s time.

Gap theorists further rationalize and state that God would have never created the Earth in a ruined state and that the Earth must have been destroyed as a result of Satan’s sin. Gap Theory proponents cite Isaiah 45:18 as basis for their belief that God didn’t create an Earth that was without form and void.

ISAIAH 45:18:

For thus says YHWH (the Lord), who created the heavens; who formed the earth and made it; who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: ...

Isaiah 45:18 actually says God formed the Earth (Genesis 1:3-31) *AND* made it (Genesis 1:1-2), indicating two separate acts of creation. God formed the Earth during the 6-day creation week *and* made the Earth **IN THE BEGINNING**.

A correct interpretation of Isaiah 45:18 should be understood to mean:

ISAIAH 45:18:

For thus says YHWH (the Lord), who created the heavens; who formed the earth [DURING THE 6-DAY CREATION WEEK] and made it [IN THE BEGINNING]; who has established it [TO SUSTAIN LIFE], who did not created it in vain [TO REMAIN VOID], who formed it to be inhabited [DURING THE 6-DAY CREATION WEEK]: ...

Gap theorists believe that there was an age of life, ruled by Satan, that God wiped out through judgment in Genesis 1:2. Scripture records that it was through man’s sin, not Satan’s, that sin and death entered the physical world. Satan is a spiritual being who exists in the spiritual realm, not a physical being who once inhabited the physical realm on Earth. There was no death of any creatures, including dinosaurs, in the world before Adam’s sin.

ROMANS 5:12:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin...

1 CORINTHIANS 15:21-22:

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Messiah (Christ) all shall be made alive.

God has created many things that are without form and void. Man doesn’t always know all the purposes of God’s creations. Some of His creation has a more significant purpose, some less. God has created many planetary bodies in our Solar System and throughout the universe that we are only now beginning to discover. These planets (such as Mars) may, at the moment, be unformed, but perhaps God will form them (for life) in the future. All this is speculation, of course. The Gap Theory errs in assuming that God could not have originally made an unformed Earth and then formed it afterward to be suitable for life.

Genesis 1:28 is a verse often cited to support the theory that the Earth was flooded twice in judgment.

GENESIS 1:28 (KJV):

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and REPLENISH the earth and subdue it...

It is believed by Gap theorists that man, Adam and Eve, were commanded by God to replenish life upon the Earth, after it was flooded from Satan's rebellion and all life was wiped out on Earth.

The New King James and the Halleluyah Scriptures versions translate Genesis 1:28 somewhat differently than the King James, using "fill the earth" instead of "replenish the earth." Adam and Eve didn't replenish the Earth; they filled it.

GENESIS 1:28 (NKJV):

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; FILL the earth and subdue it..."

BERESHITH (GENESIS) 1:28 (HSV):

And Elohim barak them, and Elohim said to them, "Bear fruit and increase, and FILL the earth and subdue it..."

EVOLUTION THEORY SCIENTISTS

YHWH (the Lord) questioned Job ... and this question is relevant to modern Evolution Theory scientists, who act and think like they know all the answers.

JOB 38:4:

**Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
Tell me if you have understanding.**

Evolution Theory scientists estimate that the Earth is 4.5-billion-years-old and that the universe is 13.8-billion-years-old. In coming to these assumed dates, Earth's rocks are tested using highly unreliable radiometric dating methods and the expanse of the universe is measured in reverse to try to come to a zero starting point of when the universe began according to the Big Bang Theory. The oldest known starlight is estimated to be about 13.6 billion-years-old.

The Earth is as old as the universe. IN THE BEGINNING God created the heavens (universe) and the Earth (Genesis 1:2). There is no age difference between the Earth and the universe as many secular astronomers proclaim.

ARE DINOSAURS AND OTHER FOSSILIZED CREATURES MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD?

No. Dinosaurs, as land creatures, were created on day-6 of creation week. The first dinosaurs that lived were created approximately 6,000-years ago.

Radiometric dating methods have been shown to be highly unreliable, and are completely unreliable when dating objects older than four thousand years old [2][3][4].

The rate of decay of carbon and other isotope elements are used to date fossils and Earth's rocks to determine their age. Since fossils and rocks cannot be measured beyond a few thousand years, because we cannot assume the rate of decay beyond those unknown years was constant (due to various environmental factors), radiocarbon and radiometric dating are based on faith, not verifiable science.

Scientists have often made a proclamation that a certain creature has been extinct for millions of years and then afterward the so-called extinct creature has been discovered to be alive and well, unchanged by evolution, and living somewhere on Earth. Such was the case with the coelacanth fish. Coelacanths were thought to be extinct for over 50-million-years, but were rediscovered off the coast of South Africa in 1938 [5].

Recent Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur bone examinations have revealed intact soft tissue and blood fragments [6]. These discoveries strongly refute the Evolution Theory scientists' view that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago [7]. Yet in spite of this new scientific evidence, Evolution Theory scientists proclaim that it is amazing that blood and soft tissue from a 70-million-year-old dinosaur could have remained intact.

It would be difficult for any creature's blood and soft tissue to remain intact for 7-years, 70-years, 700-years, or 7,000-years. It would be impossible for dinosaur blood and soft tissue to remain intact for 70,000,000-years! 70-million-years are a LOT of years for blood and soft tissue to survive intact on an active Earth!

Evolution Theory scientists are in scientific denial about recent findings of dinosaur blood and soft tissue; scientific evidence refutes their theory that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. Evolution Theory scientists are so sure that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago that they cannot even grasp the concept that most of the dinosaurs died thousands of years ago in the great flood of Noah's time. Even when presented with compelling blood and soft tissue evidence, they cling to their theory that dinosaurs died out 65-70-million-years-ago [8].

HOW OLD IS THE UNIVERSE?

How long ago was IN THE BEGINNING, when the heavens and the Earth first came into existence? No one can say for sure. To compare Scripture with distant starlight, a certain theoretical formula can be attained.

God created the heavens and the Earth in the beginning (Genesis 1:1), in a day (Genesis 2:4). A God-day = 1,000-years (2 Peter 3:8).

The heavens and the Earth experienced a history, a passage of generations of time (Genesis 2:4).

If a God day = 1,000-years, then a God year = 365,000-years.

A generation at 40-years would mean a generation of the heavens and the Earth would be 365,000-years x 40 = 14,600,000-years.

If a generation of the heavens and the Earth was 14.6 million-years, then 1,000 generations of the heavens and the Earth would = 14.6 billion-years.

Based on distant starlight, scientists estimate the universe to be at least 13-billion-years-old. It is unknown how many generations of the heavens and the Earth passed before God formed the Earth and created life upon it approximately 6,000-years-ago during the 6-day creation week. If it were 1,000-generations of the heavens and the Earth that passed, since the beginning, that would make the universe approximately 14.6 billion-years-old. Man cannot know the exact age of the universe at this time.

HOW OLD IS THE EARTH?

The age of the Earth is a complex question with no single answer. The Earth's foundation was created along with the universe in a single day (a God-day or thousand year period - 2 Peter 3:8) IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1, 2:4). The Earth was formed to be habitable for life and life was created upon the Earth about 6,000-years ago during the 6-day creation week (Genesis 1:3-2:2; Exodus 20:11, 31:17). The Earth is composed of different elements that have different ages. The Earth itself, (the foundation of the Earth), and the universe, are old (Psalm 102:25; Proverbs 8:22-23, 2 Peter 3:5). All life upon Earth is young, going back 6,000-years (Genesis 1:11-13, 20-31).

The Earth's foundation (the core, crust, dirt, mantle, mountains, rocks, soil, and water of the Earth) was created IN THE BEGINNING. The foundation of the Earth is as old as the universe itself, as the heavens and the Earth were created together IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1). The Earth was in existence before God acted upon it during the 6-day creation week, to make it suitable for sustaining life and filling it with life. The age of the Earth is unknown, as Scripture does not reveal the Earth's age, but it is likely billions of years old based on scientific observations of distant starlight.

The Earth's atmosphere, the majority of it, is approximately 6,000-years-old. God made the atmosphere (sky / firmament / heaven) for the Earth on day-2 of creation week (Genesis 1:6-8). The Earth, as a planetary body large enough to retain an atmosphere, would most likely have had some type of atmosphere from when it was originally created IN THE BEGINNING. Therefore, the Earth's atmosphere is likely a mix of gaseous elements created by God on day-2 of creation week and the atmospheric gases that were retained by the Earth IN THE BEGINNING, from billions of years ago.

All life upon Earth began approximately 6,000-years-ago. God created the grass, herbs, fruit trees, and all vegetation on day-3 of creation week (Genesis 1:11-13). God created all the sea creatures and birds on day-5 of creation week (Genesis 1:20-23). God created all the land creatures and mankind on day-6 of creation week (Genesis 1:24-31).

These are currently the best-known age(s) of the Earth, the sky, and life upon the Earth.

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3. "Is Carbon Dating Reliable?" Fryman, Helen, < <http://carm.org/carbon-dating> >.
4. "ERRORS ARE FEARED IN CARBON DATING," The New York Times, Browne, Malcom W., May 31, 1990, < <http://www.nytimes.com/1990/05/31/us/errors-are-feared-in-carbon-dating.html> >.
5. Lavett Smith, C.; Rand, Charles S.; Schaeffer, Bobb; Atz, James W. (1975). "Latimeria, the Living Coelacanth is Ovoviviparous." *Science* 190 (4219): 1105-6, < <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/190/4219/1105> >.
6. "T-rex bone blood not 70mil years old," < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97jYngUaepA> >.
7. "Dinosaur Shocker," Smithsonian, < <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dinosaur-shocker-115306469/> >.
8. "Soft tissue in dino fossils - nothing in science can allow this to be millions of years old," < https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynXwAo9V_pY >.