

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

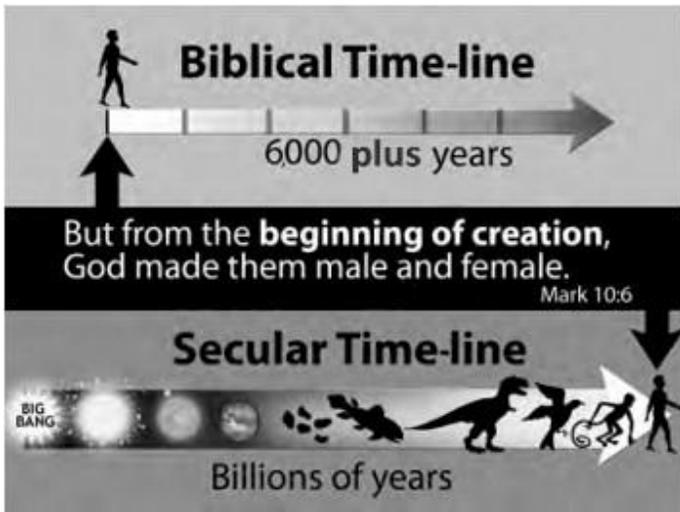
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George L. Faull, Editor

Created, Not Born

-- By Terry Carter



It is a growing trend among those who consider themselves Bible believing Christians to believe in an old earth. That is, they believe the age of the earth has been determined much more accurately by the scientific community than by the Word of God.

There are different places where people of such a mindset try to place the extra time. Some place it before Adam, some after. Some place it during the six days of creation, some between them. However, they all agree that if we want to know how old the universe and earth are, we need to consult scientists, not the Bible.

One of the leaders in this way of thinking is Hugh Ross. He is a scientist turned author who has written several popular books on the subject. Having read some of his books, several things are clear to me.

First, Dr. Ross has little, if any, doubt that the scientists are "reading" and understanding creation correctly.

Second, he has serious doubts as to whether Christians, especially young-earth ones, are reading and understanding God's Word correctly.

Third, when the calculations of scientists conflict with the natural reading of Scripture, we must question our understanding of Scripture, not the scientists.

He repeatedly calls into question our supposed assumptions when reading Scriptures. On the other hand, he seems to accept the assumptions made by scientists without much question. Probably the most important premise in his reasoning can be found throughout his books. It is stated any number of ways, but it can be summarized as follows:

If God created the universe and the earth with the appearance of age when it is actually young, that would be deceptive on His part. Therefore, if the universe and earth appear to be old, it is certainly because they are old.

It is this premise that needs to be challenged.

On pages 156-159 on his book, *A Matter of Days*, we see a typical example of his reasoning about the age of the universe.

He argues that our sun cannot be an infant star as the luminosity of an infant star is highly unstable. He says that this period lasts 50 million years for a star as massive as the Sun.

He goes on to say that after this, the ionizing radiation for the next few hundred million years is 50 times higher than that of a middle-aged star. This is a deadly level. The obvious conclusion for Ross is that the sun must be hundreds of millions of years old or we couldn't survive on earth.

He goes on to say that for God to create stars in a mature state would be deceptive on God's part. He says that, "Astronomers observe the entire range of star development – from newborn to infant, to juvenile, to middle-aged, to old, to completely burnt out – with ages ranging from a few days to nearly 14 billion years. They even see pre-born stars." He follows this with a list of the age determinations of the universe in recent times.

According to Ross, in 1991 the best data indicated 16 billion years; give or take 3 billion years. In 2001 it was updated to 14 billion years; give or take 1 billion years.

By 2003 it had been changed again to 13.7 billion years give; or take only .2 billion years.

In passing, I'd like to say that I'm glad I didn't base my eternal salvation on the 1991 figure. How foolish. I'd have looked for all eternity. But now that we cannot possibly be off by more than .2 billion years, well, that's another story. After all, that's closer than Washington can estimate the federal budget. Anyway, 200 million years is no big deal anyway. It only seems like an eternity. But that's enough kidding. Let's get back to the serious questions at hand.

Ross concludes this section by saying, "To hold their ground, however, young-earth creationists' approach is to stir up doubt that scientists really know what they're doing."

I need to be clear in saying that I don't doubt that scientists know what they are doing. What I have doubts about are the assumptions their calculations are based upon.

The one in particular that I'd like to examine here is that if it looks like it's billions of years old, it must be billions of years old. This is essentially the same assumption that drives Ross' arguments. The problem is that we know it is an invalid assumption.

Ross says that if the universe and earth appear to be old and yet are young, "God would thus be deceiving us into thinking the universe is old, when in fact it is young." But he overlooks a very important point. For the universe to appear old and yet be young is by no means deceitful on God's part if He already informed us that it appears older than it is. It is my contention that God has done exactly that. Let me give you some examples.

The mirror on the passenger side of my car has a disclaimer that says, "Objects in mirror are closer than they appear." The mirror on the driver's side has no disclaimer, because it reflects things as they actually are.

Now there is a reason why the mirrors are different on each side of my car. Each one serves a different purpose and therefore they are designed differently. Both reflect the same reality, but in different ways. It is certainly not deceptive on the part of the manufacturer because they have given us a written disclaimer.



Further, it would be dangerous or even deadly for myself and others to ignore that disclaimer and act as though the passenger side mirror reflected things as they actually are.

God has given us two mirrors through which to view the history of the cosmos. Each of these mirrors serves a different purpose. Both reflect the same reality but in different ways. The mirror of God's Word reflects things as they actually are. But when we look through the mirror of science, we must remember that historic events are

closer than they appear. This is not deceptive because God has given us his disclaimer in **Exodus 20:9-11**.

There He makes it clear to us that He created everything in six literal 24-hour days. The Israelites didn't work for six long periods of time and rest for a seventh long period of time. They worked for six literal 24-hour days and rested for a seventh literal 24-hour day. To ignore this disclaimer is dangerous or even deadly to ourselves and those around us.

"9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day [is] the Sabbath of the Lord your God. [In] [it] you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who [is] within your gates. 11 For [in] six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that [is] in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." **Exodus 20:9-11 NKJV**

More than that, **Genesis** tells us that Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day. On this same day, God is conversing with Adam, giving him dominion over all the earth and instructing him to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Now remember that Adam is not even a day old yet. I know of no infant that is less than a day old that can name all the animals, converse, or have dominion of anything, let alone multiply and fill the earth.

Clearly Adam was created as a full grown man, not a newborn infant. While God doesn't state this explicitly, He doesn't have to. It is obvious from the account. An infant could not survive by itself, with or without an infant wife. God had to create Adam and Eve as adults or there never would have been other humans.

Now Adam goes to a fruit tree to eat as God has permitted him to do. How old is that fruit tree? Well, it was created on the third day. That makes our fruit tree only three days old. Is Adam disappointed to find no fruit, since the tree is not old enough to produce fruit? Does he die of starvation before any of the trees mature enough to bear fruit? Of course he doesn't. Clearly God created, at least some, fruit trees that were fully mature and able to bear fruit.

Suppose Hugh Ross comes along and sees this full grown Adam eating fruit from a tree. What would he conclude? He concludes that Adam is at least 18-20 years old since you cannot grow to be a man in less time than that.

Further, the fruit tree must be at least one season old or it could not be producing fruit. He might go on to say that anthropologists observe the entire range of human development from newborn, to infant, to juvenile, to

middle-aged, to old, to completely burnt out. They even see pre-born humans.

Further, horticulturists observe the entire range of fruit tree development from newborn, to infant, to juvenile, to middle-aged, to old, to completely burnt out.

They even see seeds. There can be no doubt about our conclusions. Adam and the tree are old. After all, Ross would reason, it would be deceptive of God to create men and trees that appear to be mature when they are actually newly created.

Yet that is exactly what God told us He did with Adam and the trees. Is God being deceptive? Or is Ross refusing to look at all the evidence and making poor assumptions as a result?

I think the answer is obvious. What would really be deceptive on God's part is to portray creation as happening in only six days when it actually took billions of years. Of course, Ross "reinterprets" in such a way to maintain that God didn't portray creation as happening in six literal days. But this is not at all the natural reading of the passage. He takes science at its word, but doesn't take God at His Word.

I wonder how Ross understands the healing of Peter's Mother-in-law of a fever or the calming of the storm. The only thing that makes these things miraculous is the immediate nature of them.

Fevers usually go away by the natural process of things over time. Storms normally calm by the natural processes of weather over time. But in both of these cases, Jesus brought about immediately what normally would take some time. Does Ross believe that the healing must have taken several hours or even days? Does he believe the storm must have calmed slowly over several hours? This nullifies the miraculous nature of both. These are miracles of time.

Why should we believe God was tied to the natural processes of physics and their associated time frames during the obviously miraculous act of creation? It is trying to understand and explain the miraculous by denying the miraculous. You cannot simultaneously affirm and deny the miraculous working of God.

What Ross needs to do is prove that the laws of physics as they operate today were in operation without alteration during the six days of creation. In fact, the creation account leaves us with no doubt that this is not the case.

The very fact that Adam was created in a day from the dust of the ground ought to prove this. But certainly the fact that Eve came from Adam leaves us with no doubt. When has woman ever come from man instead of man from woman through natural processes? The answer is never. In fact, it simply cannot happen that way.

Clearly the normal laws of nature do not apply here. We are dealing with the miraculous, the supernatural, not the natural. So while Ross cannot prove what is necessary to his position, the opposite is easily proven.

The problem is not that Ross doesn't know what he is doing as a scientist. The problem is with his assumptions. He assumes that if Adam and the tree look mature, they must be mature. He assumes that anything else would be deceptive on God's part. He is probably a very competent scientist. However, he is trying to apply science where it is not the appropriate tool. It's like trying to use a calculator to saw a log. It just isn't the right tool for the job.

The assumptions that Ross makes fall apart upon reading what God told us in **Genesis Chapters 1 and 2**. In fact, the very first verse needs to be considered carefully. "In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth." **Genesis 1:1 NKJV**

Notice that God "created" the heavens and the earth. They were not born, they were created. The difference is huge. Ross talks about newborn stars and infant stars, etc. But according to **Genesis Chapter 1**, the stars that existed when Adam was created weren't born any more than Adam was. They were created.

When a human is born, they must go through all the natural stages of development to reach adulthood. That takes some 18-20 years. But when a human is created (brought into existence out of nothing) they can be brought into existence as an adult as easily as an infant. In fact, they must be adults unless there are already other adults there to care for and nurture them.

Adam and Eve were created, not born. (In fact, woman has never been born of man, but Eve was created from Adam.)

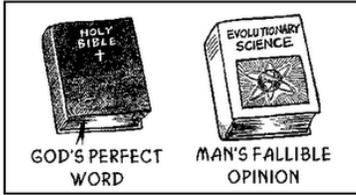
The first plants and animals were created, not born. The first stars were created, not born. The sun and moon were created, not born. The earth was created, not born. The universe was created, not born.

Determining the age of something that was born is one thing. Determining the age of something that was created is a different matter altogether.

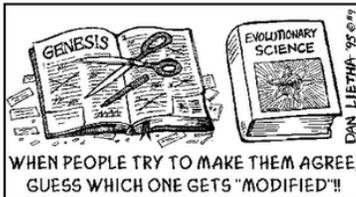
Creation, by its very definition, is out of the realm of science. Science is about what can be observed and things that follow the normal course of events, i.e. the physical laws of nature. But creation was not observed by any human being. Only God is an eyewitness to creation. Further, creation is not subject to the laws of nature or the normal course of events. It supersedes them both by its very nature.

So what do we have? We have the testimony of the only eyewitness who cannot lie in **Genesis Chapters 1 and 2**. We also have the calculations and conclusions of the

scientists which are based on assumptions contrary to what we read in **Genesis Chapters 1 and 2**. I believe I'll trust the testimony of the only eyewitness. Unlike scientists, He has never changed His story.



One final thought. When Adam and Eve listened to the message they understood from creation, instead of what God's Word plainly said, they fell.



When people today trust what they understand creation to be telling us today instead of what God's Word plainly says, they are said to be enlightened. I say it is foolish and dangerous.

I trust my ability to read and understand God's Word clearly far more than I trust the scientists' ability to "read" and understand nature clearly, especially when it comes to the age of what was created by God.