

Contents

Preface	7
----------------------	---

PART I

Chapter 1. Is there Room in the Bible for Deep Time?	9
The Bible has stood the test of time	10
The Bible is not a science textbook	13
How is Genesis interpreted?	14
Scripture's timetable	15
What did Jesus say?	16
The church believed in young ages up to AD 1800	20
Conclusion	21
Chapter 2. How Deep Time Originated	23
The 'Age of Enlightenment'	24
The sudden aging of the earth	31
Accusations that stop debate	36
Summary	39
The secular revolution in the United States (<i>in-depth section</i>)	40

PART II

Chapter 3. Noah's Flood Resets the Clocks	45
Noah's Flood solves time challenges	46
River valleys	47
Volcanic terrains	47
Thick sedimentary rocks rapidly deposited in Noah's Flood	49
Coal can form rapidly	56
The Ice Age was rapid	59
Lessons that we learn	63

PART III

Chapter 4. Most Dating Systems Give Young Ages	67
How does any dating method work?	68
Soft dinosaur tissue	69
Oceans not salty enough	73
Decay of the earth's magnetic field	74
Mutation rates too fast	76
Young dates for man's existence	78
Conclusions	79
Chapter 5. Basic Principles of Radiometric Dating	83
The many assumptions of radiometric dating	84
The development of radiometric dating	88
Chapter 6. Radiometric Dates Can Be Recalculated to Yield Dates of Less than 6,000 Years	91
Can radiometric decay be accelerated today?	92
Helium within zircon crystals demonstrate young ages	93
Challenges to accelerated radiometric decay answered (<i>in-depth section</i>)	97
Can radiometric dates be used in a relative sense? (<i>in-depth section</i>)	98
Chapter 7. Multiple Problems with Dating Methods	101
Commonly violating the main assumptions	102
Two or more dating methods made to agree	103
Radiometric dating must 'agree' with geology and the fossil order	105
Conclusions	109
Chapter 8. What about Carbon-14?	113
How does carbon-14 form?	114
Carbon-14 changes back to nitrogen-14	115
Carbon-14 only dates 'young carbon'	115
Carbon-14 should be undetectable after 100,000 years	116
Carbon-14 in coal	116
Carbon-14 in diamonds	117
Answering secular objections	118
Carbon-14 works very well within a biblical-creation model!	119

PART IV

Chapter 9. It Matters More than You Think	121
Why it matters now	123
Many of the cardinal doctrines of the Bible are derived from Genesis 1–11	127
Let the past be a lesson	128
The young-earth timescale is key to solving major mysteries of the past	129
Chapter 10. Force-Fitting Deep Time into the Bible	133
Lack of discernment and peer pressure	134
Christianity's view of truth became limited	136
Fitting deep time into Genesis 1–11	137
Short-sightedness continues to this day	142
The tide is turning	144

APPENDIX

The Starlight/Time Problem and the Youth of the Universe	147
The starlight/time problem	148
Secular scientists also have a light travel time problem	148
How do we know these distances are correct?	149
Creationist theories	149
Evidence for a young solar system	150
Evidence for a young universe	153
Problems with the nebular hypothesis	154
The big bang model	156
Five possible creationist mechanisms for the starlight/time problem (<i>in-depth section</i>)	159

Chapter 1

Is there Room in the Bible for Deep Time?

Secular scientists confidently declare that the universe is 13.8 billion years old and that our earth is 4.6 billion years old. They go on to say that complex organisms showed up in the fossil record at about 540 million years ago and that dinosaurs evolved about 230 million years ago and went extinct 65 million years ago. Modern man is said to have evolved only 200,000 years ago, and there were supposedly 'archaic men' prior to that, ever since we split from an ape-like common ancestor with chimpanzees about 6 million years ago. Millions and billions of years are assumed as fact and hardly anyone challenges them.

Deep time is taught in every country of the world. Millions of books and research articles have been written that assumed deep time. Even the road signs at national parks and monuments claim ancient ages for the geology they are describing (figure 1.1). Science programs promote deep time on television. Most entertainment assumes deep time. It is especially noticeable in science fiction. Newspapers run headlines about the latest discovery of a fossil with a supposedly firm date of many millions of years ago.

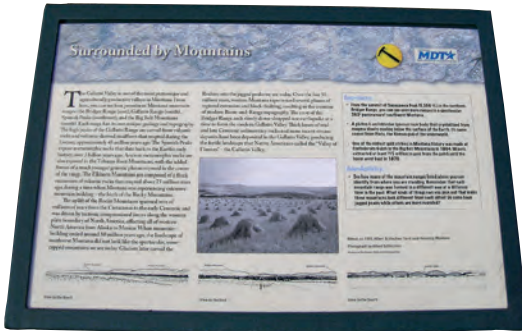


Figure 1.1. Sign several miles from the author’s home describing the geology of the Gallatin Valley in terms of millions and billions of years.

The public-school system also teaches deep time as fact. It starts in kindergarten. One of my grandsons, while in kindergarten, checked out a book from the school library on dinosaurs. Children love dinosaurs, but such books have a hook inside for millions of years and evolution.¹

‘Evolution’ refers to molecules-to-man changes over very long periods of time. Inherent in

the idea is the concept of common ancestry. The slight changes in types of dogs or finch beaks, which some people erroneously think of as ‘evolution’, really represent the diversification of the genetic system already built into the Genesis ‘kinds’. Of course, species change. This is part of God’s design. But the changes we see are not the types of changes required by common ancestry!²

The Bible has stood the test of time

The constant drumbeat of deep time coming from different places in our culture (from the halls of science to Hollywood studios) makes it appear as though it is absolute fact. This leaves Christians wondering whether deep time is true and, if it is, how it fits into the Bible. Many Christians have taken this route and attempted to fit deep time into the Bible. William Dembski, one of the leaders in the Intelligent Design Movement, who says he would like to believe the Bible teaches a young earth, believes that geology and astronomy have proven deep time to be true, so he goes along with establishment scientific consensus:

I myself would adopt [young-earth creation] in a heartbeat except that nature seems to present such strong evidence against it ... In our current mental environment, informed as it is by modern astrophysics and geology, the scientific community as a whole regards young-earth creationism as untenable.³

But note that we do not prefer the phrase ‘young-earth creationism.’ Instead, we like to call ourselves ‘biblical creationists,’ for the Bible clearly teaches a young earth.⁴

Some people question the trustworthiness of the Bible, however, because it claims deep time is *not* true, as we will see. Many have left Christianity over it.



Figure 1.2. Archeological dig at Megiddo, Israel.

Despite multiple attacks by numerous critics, the accuracy and truth of the Bible has withstood the test of time. The Bible has been shown reliable by fulfilled prophecies, archeological discoveries (figure 1.2), and by its internal consistency.⁵ The culture and people of ancient times, cities, and other historic locations were spoken of before archeology discovered proof of their existence. Even when skeptics believed the Bible was making things up, further excavations proved Scripture accurate on many separate occasions.⁶

Further archeological research has often clarified what at first appeared to contradict Scripture. Chapter 5 in the book of Daniel is an example of how this can happen. Daniel records an incident where writing appeared on the wall of the palace in Babylon. Daniel was called to interpret the words along with the offer of becoming *third* in the kingdom. The words declared the imminent fall of Babylon. Scripture records Belshazzar as the last king of Babylon, but archeology in the 1800s said that the last king was Nabonidus. For a time skeptics felt vindicated. Later, the Nabonidus Cylinder (figure 1.3) was found. It turns out that Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus and *co-ruler* of the kingdom. The cylinder confirms that Daniel would be third in the kingdom because there already was a first and second! If the book of Daniel had been written even a few hundred years later than the events, this fact would have been quickly lost, especially since ancient cultures rarely kept written records of the history of other cultures.

The accuracy of Scripture is also affirmed by the fact that there are many ancient copies or fragments of copies of the books of the Bible, more than any other ancient book—by far. The Dead Sea Scrolls

(figure 1.4) date from about 100 years before Jesus. Except for a few minor copyist errors, the book of Isaiah and other writings are remarkably identical to those books in the Bible we have today. No other ancient work can claim anywhere near such a degree of accuracy and long-term reliability. Throughout the ages there were scribes who meticulously copied the Bible from generation to generation, as is clear from the manuscript evidence.



Figure 1.3. The Nabonidus Cylinder of Sippar on display in the British Museum. (public domain)