

Session 4

Does the Age of the Earth Matter to Our Faith?

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Synopsis

The age of the earth matters, not just to the Christian worldview, but to all worldviews. Secularists claim that everything made itself, and so they need billions of years of time to make their explanations seem plausible. The Bible says that God created the world and everything in it about 6,000 years ago supernaturally in just six days. Most people think that the old age for the earth is an objective scientific fact that has been established by radioactive dating, even though they do not know how radioactive dating works. As well as showing why time is crucial to the worldview issue, this presentation demystifies radioactive dating, demonstrating in simple terms, the principles behind the method, and why it is not all that it is claimed to be. Real life examples are presented showing how scientists use the results in ways that most people do not expect. The presentation concludes by explaining the only reliable and accurate method for measuring time.

Summary

In the secular worldview the earth formed 4.6 billion years ago, and it has been undergoing a process of evolution since then, a process that has produced everything that is upon it. The Bible says the earth was created miraculously in six days about 6,000 years ago.

Time is vital to the secularist worldview because, it needs eons of time for everything to evolve naturalistically. In the secularist view, time is the miracle worker and it supposedly performs impossible feats. A young earth kills the naturalistic, secularist worldview.

An old earth kills the biblical worldview. First it destroys the credibility of the Bible because the Bible clearly says the world is young. Second it destroys the goodness of God because it means death, suffering and disease has been around for millions of years, and this would clearly be God's fault. Third it destroys the uniqueness of man, because it puts man at the end of a billion-year evolutionary process, whereas the Bible places man on the earth at the beginning to manage it.

Fourth, an old earth destroys the basis of the gospel, because it means that death and suffering has no connection with sin. Fifth, an old earth destroys the credibility of Christ because he taught that man was present on the earth from the beginning of creation.

There are many other reasons not mentioned in the talk.

Lots of people, although they can see that the Bible clearly teaches the earth is young, think that the scientific evidence for millions of years is undeniable. However, this is not correct.

All so-called scientific dates are based on assumptions, and are thus not objective scientific facts. There is no scientific instrument that can measure the age of a sample. This is easily demonstrated using a graduated measuring cylinder as an analogy. Even the most sophisticated scientific equipment, equipment that can make measurements to high precision, cannot measure the age of a sample. They simply measure a non-age property in the sample. There are many assumptions that need to be made before an 'age' can be calculated, and even then, no-one can know whether the answer is correct or not.

For this reason, no scientist ever accepts the result from an ‘age’ calculation without question. Instead he will check other information to decide if the answer is reasonable or not. And he will then change his assumptions in order to make sense of his measurements. This after-the-event modification of assumptions to obtain the ‘correct’ result is a routine procedure. A number of examples are given, including the dating of skull KNM ER 1470 from East Africa in the 1970s.

The key that makes sense of the young age for the earth is the Noah’s Flood catastrophe, which washes the millions of years away. The Flood explains the fossils and the geology of the earth in a short space of time.

There are many examples of how rocks can form rapidly; examples that are commonly believed take millions of years. And there are many examples geological evidences that point to a young age for the earth. These are interpreted in different ways by those who hold the evolutionary worldview.

It is possible to know the timing of events in the past, but only by one particular method. This is explained, along with examples of past events in Singapore and Australia.

In conclusion, it is shown that the earth is indeed young. This means that naturalism is dead, biblical history is confirmed, God is good, people are special, sin is serious, Jesus Christ can be trusted, and we have been created for a purpose. All this is vitally important to the truth and consistency of the Christian worldview.

References

The Holy Scriptures with special attention to the following (in order of usage):
Exodus 20:11; Genesis 1:31; Genesis 1:26; Mark 10:6–8; Genesis 5; Genesis 11.

Key Creation magazine articles:

30(3) 2008 (<http://creation.com/how-dating-methods-work>)

32(1) 2013 (<http://creation.com/radioactive-dating-fatal-flaw>)

32(4) 2010 (<http://creation.com/radioactive-dating-anomalies>)

CMI books and DVD:

The Young Earth

The Age of the Earth DVD

Evolution’s Achilles’ Heels DVD/Book

Creation Answers Book

The Mythology of Modern Dating Methods

Rocks Aren’t Clocks

Resources to connect with

CMI INFOBytes

Creation magazine