

## Age of the Earth

If the earth is as old as the Scientists say then where are all the bones of the people who have died? For the Christian, who honors the testimony of the inspired Scriptures, the final word on this matter is the Bible itself. If it can be demonstrated biblically that humanity and the earth were created at approximately the same time, and if it can be shown that man's history is to be measured in terms of a few thousand years, rather than millions/billions, then it logically follows that the earth should be viewed as relatively young. Consider the following. First, the Scriptures indicate that *the earth and the human family are substantially co-existent* in point of origin. Moses described the creation of the earth and man as occurring within the same six-day span (Genesis 1). That these were *ordinary* days, of approximately twenty-four hours each (not figurative "days" representing millions of years), is demonstrated by the fact that the prophet viewed them as the *same type* of "day" as the Hebrew Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11). It is unfortunate that some Christians feel that we cannot "be sure" as to the meaning of "day" in Genesis 1. The prophets affirmed that Jehovah's sovereignty has been evident to man "from the beginning," even from "the foundations of the earth" (Isaiah 40:21). How could this statement be remotely accurate if man did not arrive upon the planet until billions of years *after* earth's creation? Christ stated that "male and female" humans have existed "from the beginning of the creation" (Mark 10:6). This affirmation can never be harmonized with the notion that man is "a very recent new-comer to this planet" Paul argued that unbelief is inexcusable because evidences for the existence of the invisible God are "clearly seen" in the orderly universe, and have been "perceived" (a term that denotes rational intelligence; thus, obviously by man) "since the creation of the world"

(Romans 1:20). Anyone who takes seriously the plain statements of the Scriptures cannot but see the import of such passages.

Second, the Bible indicates that *man's years upon the earth have been relatively few*. In Luke, chapter 3, the divine historian lists the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to Adam, who was the “first man” (1 Corinthians 15:45). Now, from Christ back to Abraham there are some fifty-five generations. Archaeology has demonstrated that these fifty-five generations spanned approximately 2,000 years at the most (Kitchen, p. 213). Furthermore, from Abraham on back to Adam, there are but twenty additional generations (a number of which were noted for exceptional longevity).

Even if one grants a few possible omissions in the genealogical narrative (as with some Old Testament records – cf. Ezra 7:3,4; 1 Chronicles 6:6-10), there is no reason to assume that the earlier portion of the Lord's family record is of a radically different structure than that which characterizes the later generations. And so, Christ's genealogy spans only a few thousand years – not millions. If the genealogical accounts of the Savior's lineage do not demonstrate historical proximity, what is their purpose? The Bible is *not* silent concerning the relative ages of the earth and the human family.

In conclusion, it would be well to remember this: *today's science is tomorrow's superstition*. Science will continue to make its vain and vacillating speculations. Those who are wise will not panic with every “scientific” pronouncement, by seeking to adjust the Bible accordingly; rather, they will remain with the express testimony of the abiding Word of God