

How old is the earth?

This article is a summary of an interview with Mark Harwood, Creation Ministries.

Over the past 200 years many different positions regarding the creation account of Genesis have arisen among Christians, the most popular being 'Theistic Evolution' which claims that God used evolution to create the universe, over millions of years. This is an attempt to fit man's ideas of 'millions of years' into the Bible.

Scientist Mark Harwood became a Christian at 10 years of age, and through his studies believed what he was taught, leading him to the belief that God used evolution to create. However, being a deep thinker, some questions arose in his mind.

Wasn't the creation perfect before Adam sinned? Didn't death and suffering only occur after Adam sinned? So why does the fossil record show that animals were suffering and dying before man came along?

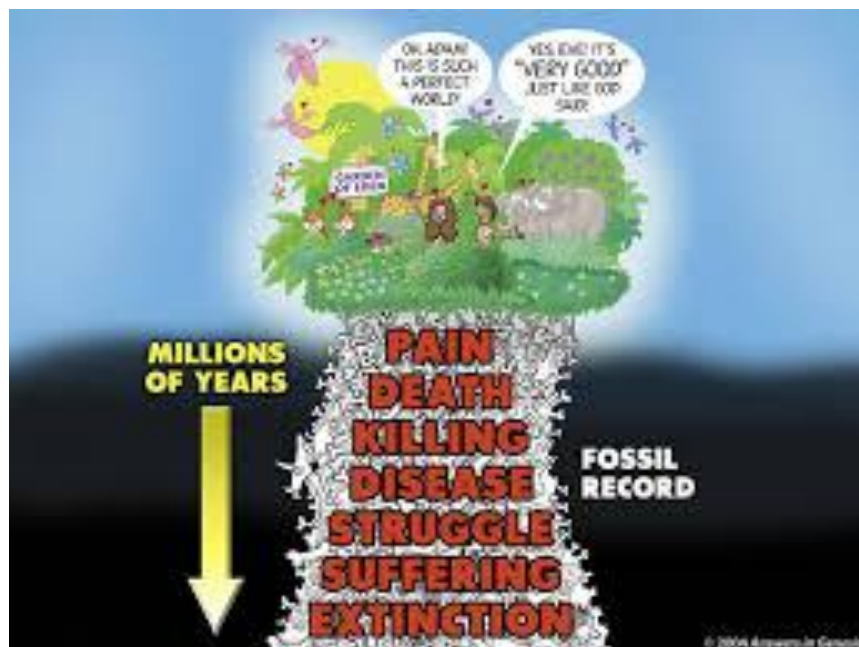
Weren't death and suffering *caused* by Adam and Eve's rebellion against God? If this is true there could be no death and suffering before they rebelled.

Isn't God a God of love? Would He have created animals to experience death and suffering from the beginning? Wouldn't this be cruel and inconsistent with God's character?

Surely the whole point of Jesus death on the cross is to provide an answer for Adam's rebellion. Did Adam rebel against God or not? If it's true then there can't have been death and suffering before Adam sinned.

Although Mark was a Christian at university, he made no effort to share the Gospel because he didn't know the answers to these questions. Then he finally came to the conclusion that the age of the earth as explained in Genesis, is right and true. He was then able share the Gospel.

Millions of years always places death before Adam.



How do we determine the age of something?

To verify the age of a person we need a written record – a birth certificate.

Historical records tell us the age of people in history and civilizations for example.

The Bible is the written historical record of the age of the earth. God was there. He was an eye witness. He walked and talked with Adam in the Garden. This information would have been passed on down the generations until finally recorded by Moses. Moses wrote Genesis, but although written by human hand, it was inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Some people think of the first humans as ape-men, lacking intelligence, but Adam was created as a perfect man and was extremely intelligent. He would have been very capable of keeping the creation account alive and passing it on.

How can we calculate the age of the earth?

Noah's father was Lamech. Lamech was 56 when Adam died. Shem, Noah's son was alive when Abraham was alive, so there is not a great length of time between Adam and Moses. There wasn't a lot of time for information to get exaggerated or lost, and God would have made sure that it was preserved. It is easy to add up the years of the genealogies to arrive at about 6000 years for the age of the earth.

Unless we have a historical record, the age of something cannot be verified.

The age of rocks for examples, cannot be accurately measured because people didn't see them being formed. Science only works in the present.

So how do scientists calculate millions of years for the age of rocks?

They work on a number of assumptions. Radiometric dating methods are based on assumptions. If the reading doesn't add up with their expectations they change it.

The dating method used for rocks for example, has been shown to be unreliable by Creation scientists. A rock was taken from a fairly recent lava flow, Mt. St. Helens, USA. When submitted for testing using radiometric dating, the age of the rock was calculated as somewhere between 350,000 and 2 million years old. Yet the rock was only 10 years old.

Similar readings were given for rocks from Hawaiian lava flows, just 200 years old.

Radiometric dating relies on a principle that things age consistently. But this is not always the case.

Anyone can make up any story about the unobserved past. But what is your foundation?...

Explaining the universe with God or without God?

Summary: 3 reasons why Christians cannot accept millions of years –

1. If millions of years were true, there would be a problem with God's character in that He would have brought death and suffering into the original creation before the Fall. Romans 8 tells us that the whole of creation is groaning under the weight of sin, which came about only AFTER the Fall. It is not consistent with God's character to create death as a means for moving forward.

2. The inerrancy of the Scriptures – if God's word is true, then Genesis 1 should be believed literally – God created in 6 24-hour days. God's word is truth. The word of God is without error.

3. Belief in millions of years undermines the proclamation of the Gospel. It makes it unintelligible because the Cross was necessary as an answer to Adam's original sin, which was the beginning of death and suffering.