

Examining the Cosmos

Session 14

Dual Revelation

The Harmony Between Nature & Scripture

Video: Dual Revelation (Reasons to Believe)

CREATIONISM, OLD AND YOUNG EARTH VIEWS

In the end, the persistence in holding on to a young Earth and a global Deluge has less to do with science than with other concerns. Even some young-Earth creationists grant that the evidence at present does not support their view, Nelson and Reynolds, in an honest assessment, wrote in a philosophical and biblical defense of young-Earth creationism, the “natural science at the moment seems to overwhelmingly point to an old cosmos,” and they conceded that “it is safe to say that most recent (young earth) creationists are motivated by religious concerns.”

But if this debate over the age of the Earth is not really about physical evidence, then what is it about? We believe that those who are most firmly committed to young-Earth creationism hold this position because they are convinced that a divinely inspired, infallible, inerrant Bible demands it. We admire young-Earth creationists for their total commitment to Scripture, because we are likewise committed. We are one with them in our total commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and rejection of the secular humanism of our day. Yet, as has been said in this class many times, a firm commitment to the infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture does not require a Christian to believe the theory of a recent creation to which young-Earth creationists adhere. And certainly the gospel of Jesus Christ does not demand acceptance of a young Earth. Nor is the eternal salvation of anyone anywhere ever dependent of acceptance of a young Earth. It is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that saves us from the wrath to come, not belief in a young Earth. The data of the Bible certainly does not demand that we hold to young earth views.

Christians need to relax and stop being afraid that some scientific evidence will disprove the Bible or undermine Christianity. We should not be afraid of the evidence that God has put into His world. Here is the key question: If the Bible convincingly teaches that the Earth is only a few thousand years old and that there was a geologically active global Flood of such cataclysmic proportions; then why is it that the physical evidence in God’s world (evidence that God put there, evidence interpreted by

thousands of competent individuals, many of who are themselves Bible-believing Christians*), constantly points overwhelmingly against these young earth ideas and in the direction of an extremely ancient world?

The only recourse that flood catastrophists have to save their theory is to appeal to a pure miracle and thus eliminate entirely the possibility of historical science/geology. We believe that this appeal to a miracle would be a more honest course of action for young-Earth advocates to take than to deny or force-fit the scientific evidence into a Young Earth view. Young-Earth creationists should reevaluate their efforts to convince the lay Christian public that geology/science supports a young Earth when it does not do so. To continue those efforts in the face of the increasingly overwhelming evidence to the contrary is not useful and, in my opinion, detrimental to the health of the church and the cause of Christ.

*Note; See excerpt from the book "The Bible, Rocks, and Time" provided in Reference Document 21 as an example