

Cornerstone Bible Church

Systematic Theology

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Acknowledgment & Credits:

LECTURES ON INTRODUCTION TO
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY TAUGHT BY
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SUNDAY SCHOOL AT IGLESIA BIBLICA DEL
SEÑOR JESUCRISTO.

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THEOLOGY PROPER

General Contents:

1. The Existence of God
2. The Attributes of God
3. The Trinity
- 4. Creation**
5. Providence
6. The Names of God

Creation

Creation

- 1. Its place within ST**
- 2. The Author of Creation**
- 3. The Method of Creation**
- 4. The Time of Creation**

Creation (Review)

1. Position within Systematic Theology

The Works of God are considered within the Doctrine of God and in Systematic Theology these Works encompass Creation, Salvation and Providence.

2. The Author of Creation

The **Trinity** was involved in Creation. The Father commanded it, the Son executed it and the Spirit ordained it. Gn 1:1-2, Jn 1:3,10, Ps 104:30

Creation (Review)

2. The Author of Creation

“Creation is distinct from God but it still depends on Him.”

Acts 17: 24-28

The Biblical Teaching opposes the teachings of:

a) **Materialism**: Matter is eternal, and the universe is all that exists, the existence of God is obviously denied

b) **Pantheism**: The Universe is God, and part of God. God is everything and everything is God.

c) **Dualism**: God and the universe have always existed as supreme forces.

d) **Deism**: God created but does not intervene any more

Creation (Review)

3. The Method of Creation

1. **Immediate**: directly and by God's hand Gn 1:1, Jn 1:3,10
2. **Ex-Nihilo**: out of nothing Heb 11:3
3. **Completed and rapidly**: opposite to evolution Ps 33:6-9

Rick Lapworth last week gave us the evidences of ID & EC (Intelligent Design and Irreducible Complexity) through which Christians accept **micro-evolution** (changes within the same species or adaptation) but not **macro-evolution**, the turning of a species into another through large periods

Creation

4. The Time of Creation

This is even a more controversial point among Christians since a large group believes in the theory of an old earth (aprox.4,500 million years)

- To justify this position it is necessary to argue that the creation days are not literal (day-epoch theory) but just a literary figure of speech to describe God's creative work
- It seems inconsistent with the rules of textual interpretation, to see in the days of creation large periods.
Days are days unless we are told different
- It would not make sense to use Creation as the pattern for the institution of a Day of Rest in Exodus 20

Creation

4. The Time of Creation

The two schools for a “Christian” Old Age View

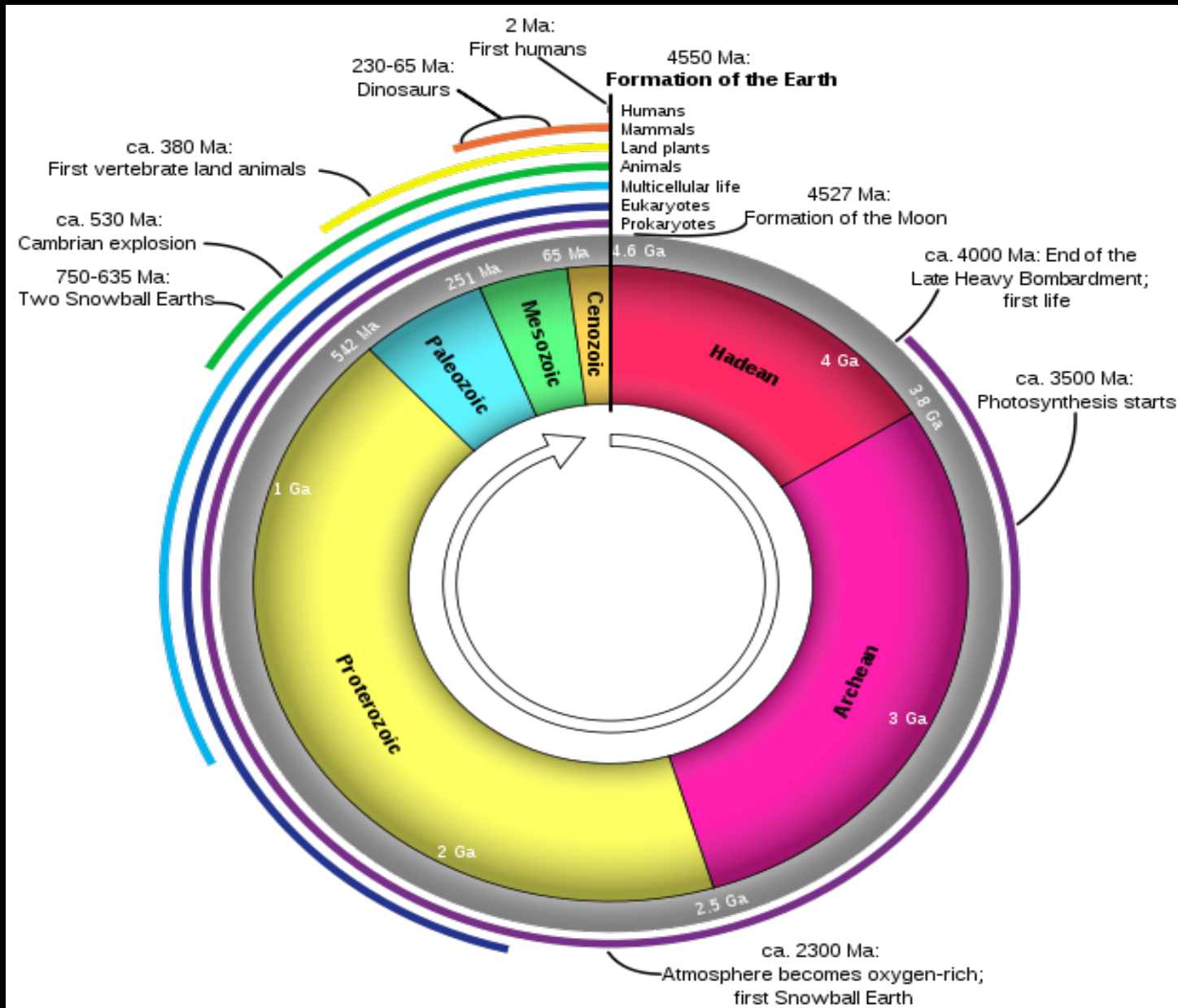
a) The Day-Epoch theory

Genesis 1 & 2 describe geological eras in figurative language

b) The Gap theory

There is a “gap” of millions of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2

Creation 4. The Time of Creation



Creation

4. The Time of Creation

MacArthur says : *“If the Lord wanted to tell us that creation took place in literal days, could He have done it with more clarity than what we find in Genesis? The length of days is defined by periods of light and darkness and after the fourth day, they are governed by the sun and the moon. The week itself defines the pattern of rest and work for mankind. The days are marked by the passing of afternoon and morning. How is it possible that these elements make reference to something which is not the chronological advance of God’s creative work...?”*.
(The Battle for the Beginning, Pg.23)

Creation

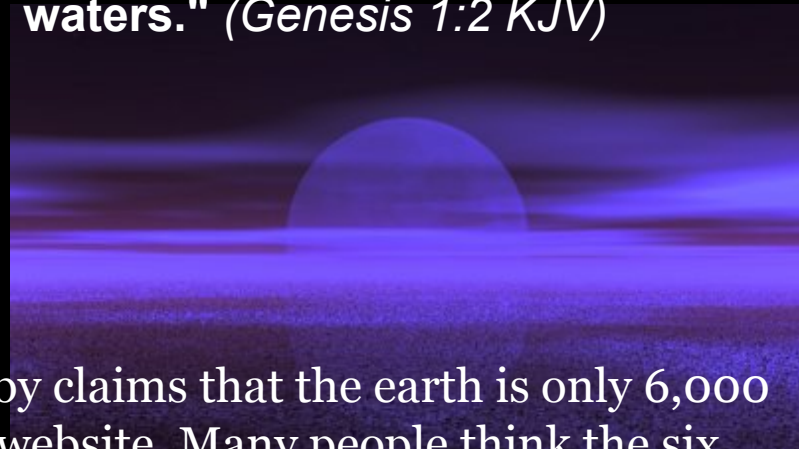
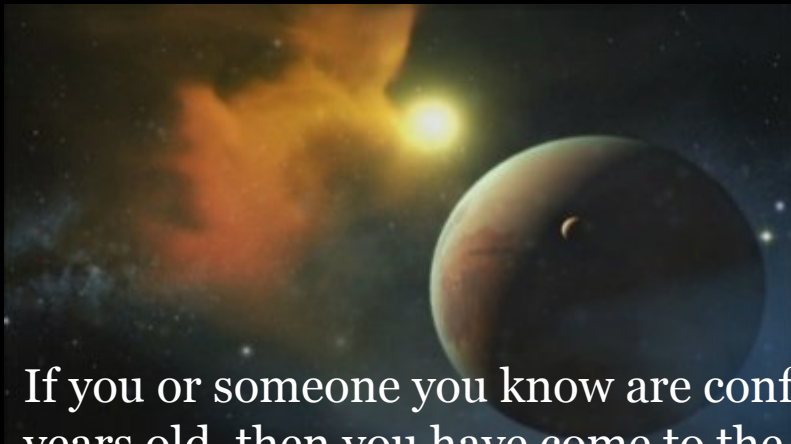
4. The Time of Creation

THE GAP THEORY:

"In the beginning God created the
heaven and the earth."
(Genesis 1:1)

?

"And the earth was without form,
and void; and darkness was upon
the face of the deep. And the Spirit
of God moved upon the face of the
waters." *(Genesis 1:2 KJV)*



If you or someone you know are confused by claims that the earth is only 6,000 years old, then you have come to the right website. Many people think the six creation days in Genesis are a description of the Earth's geologic history. They are not! The geologic record shows that the Earth existed long before the six days and long before Adam. **There is a time-gap between the first two verses of Genesis.**

Creation

4. The Time of Creation

THE GAP THEORY:

- a) Gn 1:1 Original Creation (many hundreds of thousands or millions of years ago)
- b) Gn 1:2 A Cataclysm destroyed a pre-adamic race (today's demons (?) because of Satan's fall)
- c) Gn 1:3 God renewed or re-founded the earth

Creation

4. The Time of Creation

“The earth was without form and void”

“now, regarding the earth, it was waste and without form...”NIV

“formless and empty” NASB

“formless and void” NKJV

“without form, and void” NRSV, NJB

“a formless void” TEV

“formless and desolate” REV

“a vast waste” SEPT –

“invisible and unfurnished” JPSOA

The earth was first created in a unshaped state, surrounded by darkness and water, wrapped in some kind of mist. The universe was something sterile and inert. But in that very moment of the creation of the universe, time, mass and space began to exist by the Almighty Word of God.

Creation

4. The Time of Creation

MacArthur says : “The chaos described in verse 2 is the original state of the universe during the 24 hours that followed his initial creation. This is not about a desolating state in which the earth had fallen after being functioning well during some time, but it is rather the situation in which universe came to be, just before God started the rest of his creative activity. That picture can evoke the image of a potter decided to make a beautiful and perfect vessel to be useful to man’s service. The first thing He does is to take a block of formless clay and put it in a wheel to shape it according to His specific objectives. In the same way, God started to work with some rough material.” (The Battle for the Beginning, Pg.23)

Creation

4. The Time of Creation

“The apparent” old age position

The earth at creation had an apparent age which was older than what it really was, just as Adam and Eve were created as adults.

Others argue that the deterioration of creation resulting from the Fall, and the deluge cataclysmic events, accentuated even more the apparent old age of the earth.

Assuming that the correct position is that of a young earth, How long ago was earth created? We cannot be dogmatic about this – James Usher is – but we believe it is no less than 6,000 years, but it is very difficult that it is older than 20,000 years according to many.

Creation

4. The Time of Creation

1. Jesus took Genesis 1-3 as literal ex: Mt 19:4-5
2. Paul did it in Romans 5:12-ff I Co 11:8-9 and I Tim 2:13-14
3. John used elements of Genesis 1-3 (the serpent, the tree of life) in the book of Revelation
4. Luke quotes Paul in Acts 17:26 taking Genesis 2 as literal

Creation

The Ultimate Syllogism of Faith

1. GOD IS – the Ontological Argument –
 2. GOD HAS SPOKEN – The Teleological argument
 3. HE SPOKE IN A BOOK: Bible, Koran, Bhagavad Gita
Others...
 4. Coherence, inerrancy (science, history and geography),
preservation, influence and contents point to the Bible
- ...but don't waste your time, ultimately it is "FAITH", which happens to be the element God requires to be pleased and to draw near to Him Heb 11:5

Creation

Conclusion

When God finished creation it was “exceedingly good.” We should appreciate creation as something which comes from the hand of God. When the Bible commands us not to be conformed into the pattern of this world, it is not talking about creation, but to the system of wickedness which resulted from the entrance of sin into creation

In gratitude, we must consider that even though God made all things for His Glory, he also made them for our benefit, including man’s creative abilities, since it was God Himself who put this capacity in us, so that we may imitate Him as our Creator