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# **A CHARITABLE APPROACH TO THE AGE OF THE EARTH DEBATE**

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# A CHARITABLE APPROACH TO THE AGE OF THE EARTH DEBATE

**“In essentials, unity.  
In non-essentials, liberty.  
In all things, charity.”**

Augustine of Hippo



# DEFINITIONS

- CREATION
- EVOLUTION
- DARWINISM
- YOUNG EARTH CREATIONISM
- OLD EARTH CREATIONISM
- THEISTIC EVOLUTION
- INTELLIGENT DESIGN

# FOUR CATEGORIES IN THE DEBATE

- BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
- GENEALOGIES
- DEATH BEFORE THE FALL
- [PRESUPPOSITIONALISM]



# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION



## YOUNG EARTH DAYS OF CREATION

Six 24-hour days

“And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.” Genesis 1:5

“For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:11

# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION



## OLD EARTH DAYS OF CREATION

Use of the word “Yom”

Gen. 1:5 just the daylight.

Gen. 2:4 the whole creation week.

We are still in the seventh day

Hebrews 4:3-11

No use of “... and there was evening, and there was morning. The seventh day.”

The long sixth day

Genesis 1 & 2



# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

## OLD EARTH DAYS OF CREATION



The long sixth day  
Genesis 1 & 2

"It would seem to border on sheer irrationality to insist that all of Adam's experiences in Genesis 2:15-22 could have been crowded into the last hour or two of a literal twenty-four-hour day."

Gleason Archer



# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

## *THE BIG QUESTION*



When, if ever, is it permissible to use information from outside the Bible to interpret the Bible?

# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

## *THE GALILEO CONTROVERSY*



**Psalm 93:1**

“The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.”

Psalm 96:10

“Say among the nations, ‘The Lord reigns.’ The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved.”

Psalm 104:5

“He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.”



# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

## *THE GALILEO CONTROVERSY*



1 Chronicles 16:30

“Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.”

# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

## *THE GALILEO CONTROVERSY*



Joshua 10:12-14

“On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

‘Sun, **stand still** over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.’

So the sun **stood still**, and the moon **stopped**, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun **stopped in the middle of the sky** and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!”



# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

## *THE GALILEO CONTROVERSY*



“To assert that the earth revolves around the sun is as erroneous as to claim that Jesus was not born of a virgin.”

Cardinal Robert Bellarmine

# BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION



## *BOTH* YOUNG EARTH & OLD EARTH AGREE

- The creation passages are historical rather than metaphorical.
  - The creative acts of God happened chronologically.
  - Adam and Eve were real historic individuals.
- “The inerrancy debate is over what the Bible *is*.  
The age of the Earth debate is over what the Bible *says*.”

Norman Geisler



# GENEALOGIES

“A straightforward addition of the chronogenealogies yields a date for the beginning near 4000 B.C.”

Larry Pierce and Ken Ham  
*The New Answers Book 2*

“It would be important, first of all, to realize that there was a range of meanings for such terms as (1) ‘a generation,’ (2) ‘begat,’ (3) ‘son of,’ (4) ‘father of,’ and (5) ‘she bore [yalad] a son.’”

Walter C. Kaiser

# GENEALOGIES

Genesis 46:11

“Levi’s sons: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.”

Exodus 6:18

“The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.  
Kohath lived 133 years.”

Exodus 6:20

“Amram married his father’s sister Jochebed, and she bore him  
Aaron and Moses.  
Amram lived 137 years”

Moses was 80 at the time of the Exodus.



# GENEALOGIES

This gives a maximum of 350 years from the decent into Egypt to the exodus.

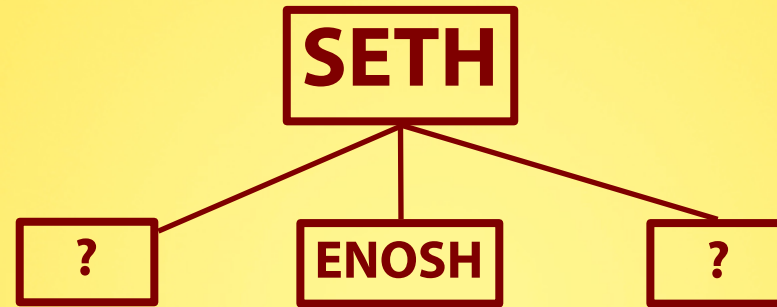
Exodus 12:40

“The time that the Israelites lived in Egypt was 430 years.”

# GENEALOGIES

Genesis 5:6

“Seth lived one hundred and five years, and became the **father** of Enosh.”

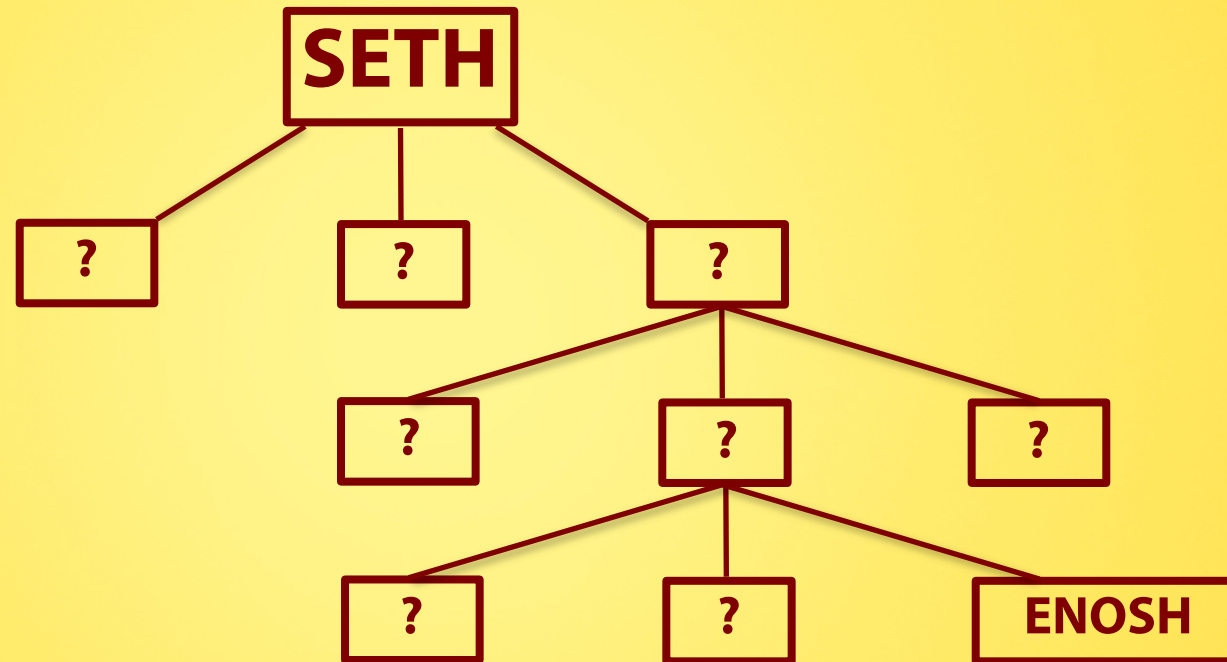




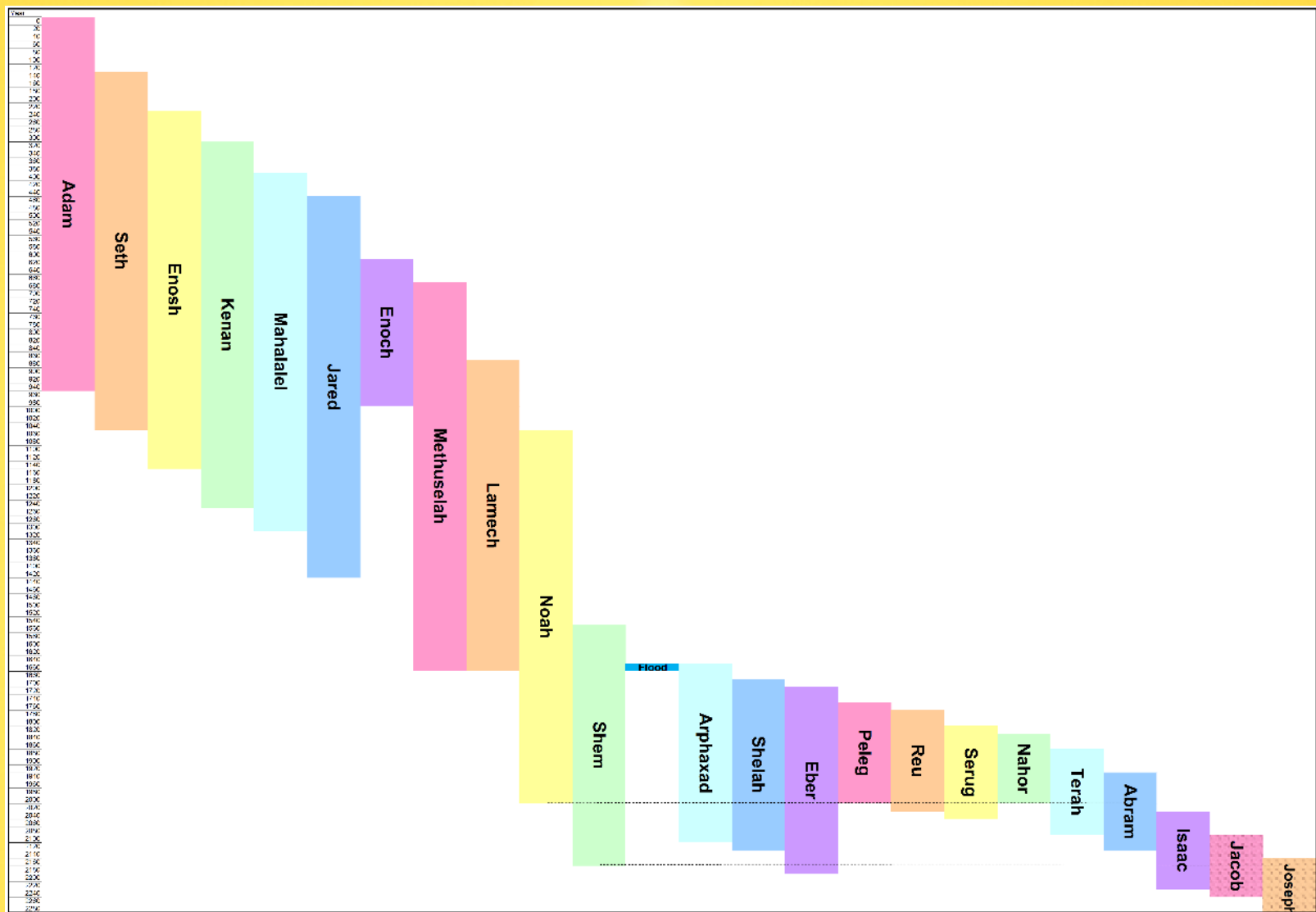
# GENEALOGIES

Genesis 5:6

“Seth lived one hundred and five years, and became the **ancestor** of Enosh.”



# GENEALOGIES





# GENEALOGIES

## ***BOTH* YOUNG EARTH & OLD EARTH AGREE**

- The genealogies in the Bible are referring to real people who lived in real history.

# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.”

Cor. 15:20-22

“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”



# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

“Sin entered into the world.” Actual sin really does not enter into the world, but the (actual) sins of every burden the head of the transgressor. The word “world” here does not signify heaven and earth, but the human beings that live in the world, as the Apostle says in Romans 3:6: “For then how shall God judge the world?” In 5:19 he explains the term by the words: “By one man’s disobedience many were made sinners.”

Martin Luther  
1483-1546

# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

Romans 8:18-20

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."



# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

"This is not to be understood simply as meaning that trees, vegetables, stones and the like sorrow and sigh – this is the error of the Manichaeans – nor should we think that the holy angels are subject to vanity or that they will be set free from the slavery of death, since they are immortal. Here the creation means the human race."

Augustine of Hippo  
354-430

# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

Isa. 65: 20,25 (also in Isa. 11:6-9)

“Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food.”



# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

“In the opinion of some, those animals which now are fierce and kill others, would, in that state, have been tame, not only in regard to man, but also in regard to other animals.

But this is quite unreasonable. For the nature of animals was not changed by man's sin, as if those whose nature now it is to devour the flesh of others, would then have lived on herbs, as the lion and falcon.

Nor does Bede's gloss on Genesis 1:30, say that trees and herbs were given as food to all animals and birds, but to some.

Thus there would have been a natural antipathy between some animals.”

Thomas Aquinas  
1225-1274

# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

God's care for His creation is cited as evidence that animals along with humans would not have experienced death in a "very good" creation.

"God commands a Sabbath rest be given to a man's animal (Exod. 23:12). He condemns men who are cruel to their animals (Prov. 12:10), and He cares for creatures in this fallen world (Ps. 104:14-16 and 27-28)."

James Stambaugh

*Whence Cometh Death?*

*A Biblical Theology of Physical Death and Natural Evil*



# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

Ps. 104:14-16

“He makes grass grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to cultivate—  
bringing forth food from the earth:  
wine that gladdens human hearts,  
oil to make their faces shine,  
and bread that sustains their hearts.  
The trees of the Lord are well watered,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.”

**Ps. 104:20-22**

**“You bring darkness, it becomes night,  
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.  
The lions roar for their prey  
and seek their food from God.  
The sun rises, and they steal away;  
they return and lie down in their dens.”**

Ps. 104:27-28

“All creatures look to you  
to give them their food at the proper time.  
When you give it to them,  
they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are satisfied with good things..”

# DEATH BEFORE THE FALL

## *BOTH* YOUNG EARTH & OLD EARTH AGREE

- No humans died before the Curse which was a result of the Fall.



# PRESUPPOSITIONALISM



## YOUNG EARTH DAYS OF CREATION

Six 24-hour days

“And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.” Genesis 1:5

“For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:11

# MODERN YOUNG EARTH SCIENTISTS

## **Astronomy and Cosmology**

Don DeYoung  
Danny Faulkner  
Jonathan Henry  
John Rankin  
Ron Samec

## **Biology and Microbiology**

Kimberly Berrine  
Vladimir Betina  
Andrew Bosanquet  
Rob Carter  
Chung-Il Cho  
Ken Cumming  
David A. DeWitt  
Dudley Eirich  
Andrew J. Fabich  
Carl B. Fliermans

## **Chemistry and Biochemistry**

Vladimir Betina  
Edward A. Boudreaux  
Donald Chittick  
Lionel Dahmer  
Chris Darnbrough  
Douglas Dean  
David A. DeWitt  
Dwain L. Ford  
Kenneth W. Funk

## **Genetics**

André Eggen  
Maciej Giertych  
Georgia Purdom  
Michael Todhunter  
Ick-Dong Yoo

## **Geology, Palaeontology, and Geography**

Steve Austin  
Harold Coffin  
Colin W. Mitchell  
John D. Morris  
Terry Mortenson  
Arlton C. Murray  
Joachim Scheven  
Andrew Snelling

## **Physics**

E. Theo Agard  
John Baumgardner  
Prof. Sung-Do Cha  
Eugene F. Chaffin  
William M. Curtis III  
Dennis L. Englin



# CHRISTIAN LEADERS

## OPEN TO AN OLD EARTH INTERPRETATION

James Dobson

Chuck Colson

C.S. Lewis

Francis Schaeffer

Norman Geisler

Hank Hanegraaff

Bill Bright

(founder, Campus Crusade for Christ)

Frank Turek

J. Warner Wallace

R.C. Sproul

Lee Strobel

William Lane Craig

J.P. Moreland

C.I. Scofield

(Scofield Reference Bible)

Benjamin B. Warfield

St. Augustine

Walter Kaiser

Josh McDowell

# CONCLUSION

- No protestant denomination has YEC listed as an essential
- The SBC does not have YEC as an essential



# CONCLUSION

- Bible believing Evangelical Christians who hold to inerrancy can hold differing interpretations of the first two chapters of Genesis.
- Age of the universe/earth is not a test for orthodoxy
- A reasonable balance:
  - Old Earth Creationism is biblically permissible and is scientifically preferable.
  - Young Earth Creationism is scientifically permissible and is biblically preferable.

# THANK YOU FOR COMMING QUESTIONS?

Did Jesus the only way?  
How can there be  
The Big Bang?  
Does God exist?  
Hate gay people?  
Does God exist?  
Who is Jesus?  
From the dead?  
What do Jehovah's  
Witnesses believe?  
Is morality  
from the Bible?