

AN ANCIENT CREATION

THE MAJOR MODELS FOR THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

1. **YOUNG EARTH CREATION MODEL**

PREDICTS that discoveries will increasingly prove:

- There was no Big Bang.
- The age of the universe is no more than 10,000 years.
- The Milky Way is located at the geographical centre of the universe.
- Earth resides at the ideal location for housing intelligent life and a civilization.
- The age of the Earth is no more than 10,000 years.
- All plate-tectonic activity occurred at either the time of Adam's fall or at the time of a global flood in Noah's time.
- Many of the laws of physics were altered at either the time of Adam's fall or at the time of a global flood in Noah's time.
- The necessity of interventionist miracles to bring humans into existence.
- Natural selection, mutations or other mechanisms cannot cross the species barrier to form new species.
- Modern man is anatomically, genetically identical to Neanderthals, Homo Sapiens idaltu, and Homo erectus.
- All hominid species have existed for no more than 10,000 years.
- All other animal species have existed for no more than 10,000 years.
- Animals did not die until after the time of Adam's fall.

PROBLEMS:

Sciencephobia. Because of the pseudo-science of biological evolution creationists distrust the work of all secular scientists, especially in relation to the dating of the universe, the earth, and earth's life-forms. Furthermore, they mislead others when they claim that Scientists have only the present to go by; whereas, in fact, astronomical observation is actually a looking into the past – almost back to the very beginning.

Censorship. This is done by disregarding real scientific findings that do not fit the creationist scenario of a recent creation. Furthermore there is a certain amount of the misapplication of scientific laws. Also there is a misleading of others concerning the trustworthiness of the different dating methods.

Biblical Misunderstanding. The Genesis 1 and 2 creation account and the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies allow for much longer time spans than Young Earth Creationists imagine.

2. **THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES CREATION MODEL**

No predictive model is presented by the Jehovah's Witness.

BELIEFS:

- The universe had a beginning probably by means of the hot Big Bang event.
- The universe is expanding and cooling and may be 13.6 billion years.
- The universe is fine-tuned.
- The probable Big Bang event explains only the beginning of the universe.
- That after the Big Bang there is further miraculous intervention for all the design features of the universe.
- Earth resides at the ideal location for housing intelligent life and a civilization.
- The age of the Earth may be 4.5 billion years.
- Most plate-tectonic activity occurred at the time of a global flood in Noah's time.

- The necessity of interventionist miracles to bring humans into existence.
- Natural selection, mutations or other mechanisms cannot cross the species barrier to form new species.
- Modern man is anatomically, genetically identical to Neanderthals, Homo Sapiens idaltu, and Homo erectus.
- Mankind was created 6,000 years ago.
- All other animal species have existed for no more than 48,000 years.
- Animals have always died, but only naturally until after the flood in Noah's time.
- Mankind and all the animal species were vegetarian until the flood.
- Many animal species were altered to become carnivorous after the flood.

PROBLEMS:

Partial Sciencephobia and censorship. The JW's mainly have the same fears as the Young Earth Creationists in this regard. However, they accept some science when it fits their world view e.g. the age of the universe and of the Earth.

Biblical Misunderstanding. The Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies are not chronologies and therefore allow for much longer time spans back to the creation of Adam than JW's imagine.

3. THEISTIC EVOLUTION MODEL

PREDICTS that discoveries will increasingly prove:

- The universe had a beginning by means of the miraculous hot Big Bang event.
- The universe is expanding and cooling.
- The universe is fine-tuned.
- That after the Big Bang there is no further miraculous intervention.
- The age of the universe is 13.6 billion years.
- The Big Bang event explains **all**, including the biological, design features of the universe.
- The Milky Way is located on the surface of the universe.
- The Big Bang does not totally account for Earth's ideal location for habitability.
- The age of the Earth is 4.5 billion years.
- All plate-tectonic activity has occurred during Earth's 4.5 billion years.
- The laws of physics have remained constant since the Big Bang.
- There was no necessity of interventionist miracles to bring humans into existence.
- Natural selection, mutations or other mechanisms cross the species barrier to form new species.
- Modern man is anatomically, genetically different to Neanderthals, Homo Sapiens idaltu, and Homo erectus.
- Neanderthals, Homo Sapiens idaltu, and Homo erectus came into existence earlier than mankind.
- Some animal species have existed for millions of years.
- Animals have always died throughout all of Earth's history.
- Some animal species have always been carnivorous.
- Mankind has always been omnivorous (eating both vegetation and flesh).

PROBLEMS:

Christophobia. This is the fear the scientific community has of religious radicalism with its attempt to bring into the school system the highly unscientific teachings of Young Earth Creationism. However, this is used as an excuse to keep out all creation or intelligent design teaching.

Censorship. This is done by proposing that there can be no supernatural explanations for the existence of biological life.

4. **NATURALISTIC EVOLUTION MODEL**

BELIEFS: This is an atheistic belief

PREDICTS *that discoveries will increasingly prove:*

- There was no miraculous intervention.
- The universe is eternal and self-caused.
- There was no Big Bang.
- The universe is not fine-tuned.
- The Milky Way is located on the surface of the universe.
- That the earth is quite unremarkable and that other similar planets will be discovered.
- The age of the Earth is 4.5 billion years.
- All plate-tectonic activity has occurred during Earth's 4.5 billion years.
- There was no necessity of interventionist miracles to bring humans into existence.
- Natural selection, mutations or other mechanisms cross the species barrier to form new species.
- Modern man is anatomically, genetically different to Neanderthals, Homo Sapiens idaltu, and Homo erectus.
- Neanderthals, Homo Sapiens idaltu, and Homo erectus came into existence earlier than mankind.
- All other animal species have existed at various times through extinction and miraculous replacement.
- Some animal species have existed for millions of years.
- Animals have always died throughout much of Earth's history.
- Some animal species have always been carnivorous.
- Mankind has always been omnivorous (eating both vegetation and flesh).

PROBLEMS:

Christophobia. This is the fear the scientific community has of religious radicalism with its attempt to bring into the school system the highly unscientific teachings of Young Earth Creationism. However, this is used as an excuse to keep out all creation or intelligent design teaching.

Censorship. This is done by proposing that there can be no supernatural explanations for the existence of the universe and all biological life.

5. **SEEDED FROM OUTER SPACE MODEL**

This is an atheistic belief that proposes that once the seeding of life on Earth took place naturalistic evolutionary processes brought about all of biological life-forms.

PROBLEMS:

This theory suffers from the inherent defects that evolutionary theory suffers from. Such theorists cannot answer the questions of who created the aliens that seeded the Earth. Or Is there any proof that there are any such aliens in the entire universe?

VIEWPOINT

Most of the factors that are marked in red above are ones that are contrary to the Biblical picture. Additionally, they have either increasingly been proven false by scientific discoveries or they are anticipated to be proven false with the progression of such discoveries. Yet throughout history individuals have held tenaciously to various faulty interpretations of the Scriptures that have later been realized when observations of the natural world have made it evident e. g. the earth was thought to be the centre of the universe.

6. THE ANCIENT CREATION MODEL

PREDICTS *that discoveries will increasingly prove:*

- The universe had a beginning by means of the miraculous hot Big Bang event.
- The universe is expanding and cooling.
- The universe is fine-tuned.
- The miraculous Big Bang event explains only the beginning of the universe.
- The age of the universe to be 13.6 billion years.
- That after the Big Bang there is further miraculous intervention for all the design features of the universe.
- The Milky Way is located on the surface of the universe.
- That Earth resides at the ideal location for housing intelligent life and a civilization.
- The age of the Earth is 4.5 billion years.
- All plate-tectonic activity has occurred during Earth's 4.5 billion years.
- The laws of physics have remained constant since the Big Bang.
- The necessity of interventionist miracles to bring humans into existence.
- That natural selection, mutations or other mechanisms cannot cross the species barrier to form new species.
- Modern man is anatomically, genetically different to Neanderthals, Homo Sapiens idaltu, and Homo erectus.
- That Neanderthals, Homo Sapiens idaltu, and Homo erectus came into existence earlier than mankind.
- All other animal species have existed at various times through an extinction and miraculous replacement pattern.
- Animals have always died throughout all of Earth's history.
- Some animal species have always been carnivorous.
- Mankind has always been omnivorous (eating both vegetation and flesh).

BIBLICAL REASONS FOR AN ANCIENT UNIVERSE

❖ “In the beginning God **had created** (Heb. *bara*) the heavens and the earth” (*Gen. 1:1*).

All matter, energy, space and time of the universe were brought into existence by God *ex nihilo* (*from nothing*). However, Genesis Two demonstrates that the functional creation took place over a period of time. So *for the entire project* the term ‘**beginning**’ does not mean *instantaneous* as proposed by Augustine. The Genesis usage of the term ‘**beginning**’ is seen from the example:

❖ “...the beginning of his [*Nimrod's*] kingdom was Babel, and Erech and Accad...” (*Gen. 10:10*).
Hence, this ‘beginning’ involved all the time it took to build these cities. Also note the first verses of chapters 26, 27, 28, and 49 of Jeremiah.

NOTE: Giving confirmation of direct creation by God's word we learn that:

- a. “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made...For He spoke and it was done” (*Ps. 33:6, 9*)
- b. “For He commanded and they were created” (*Ps. 148:5*).

THE BEGINNING WAS A LONG TIME AGO

- ❖ “The Lord possessed me [*God's personified wisdom*] at the beginning of His way, Before His works of **old** ... From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth... before the mountains were settled” (*Prov. 8:22-25*).
- ❖ “the heavens existed **long ago**” (*2 Peter 3:5*).

Here God's universal physical creation is described as being "His works of **old**" and existing "**long ago**." Could the use of these terms mean that the universe was created only 6,000 to 10,000 years ago as proposed by *Young Earth Creationists*?

THE UNIVERSE IS LARGE AND THEREFORE OLD

❖ "I will greatly multiply your [Abraham's] seed **as the stars** of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore" (*Gen. 22:17*).

The comparison of the number of stars with grains of sand on the seashore indicates that they were countless to the ancient Hebrews. In fact there are currently estimated to be some 200 billion galaxies and the Milky Way galaxy alone contains 100 billion stars. Now because the speed of light is constant we would not see those stars in the night sky if they had been created only some 6,000 years ago. Certainly for Abraham the night sky would have been empty of stars. So the fact of the vastness of the universe demonstrates that it is indeed ancient and in the order of billions of years of age. Further proof of this is the modern day observations that the universe is expanding at an accelerating rate and cooling. Even though understood only in a limited way information was given to mankind thousands of years ago concerning the expansion of the universe:

- ❖ "O LORD my God, you are very great...Stretching out the heavens like a tent" (*Ps. 104:1, 2*)
- ❖ "[God] who alone stretches out the heavens" (*Job 9:8*).

BIBLICAL REASONS FOR AN ANCIENT EARTH

- ❖ "Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting You are God" (*Ps. 90:2-6*).
- ❖ "Your years are throughout all generations. **Of old** You founded the earth" (*Ps. 102:24*).
Would these be suitable comparisons with God's eternity if the mountains or the earth were only 3,000 years old at the time of writing?
- ❖ "Yes, the *perpetual* mountains were shattered, the ancient hills collapsed" (*Habak. 3:6b*).
- ❖ "The LORD possessed me at **the beginning** of His way, *before* His works of old. From *everlasting* I was established, from the beginning, **from the earliest times of the earth**" (*Prov. 8:22, 23*).

Nevertheless, belief in an ancient earth and universe does not require that one believe in biological macro-evolution. Belief in a young earth where no animals died and all were vegetarian before the Fall could mean belief in Macro-evolution for the animals to be adapted so relatively suddenly after the Fall.

HOW OLD IS MANKIND?

BIBLICAL GENEALOGIES

Please See STUDY 9. GENEALOGIES IN RELATION TO CHRONOLOGY which also notes that:

It is evident that these genealogies were not for the purpose of forming a chronology. It is a noticeable fact that Bible writers never put them to such a use themselves. They nowhere add up these numbers, nor suggest their summation. They merely afford us a conspectus of peoples' lives. From Adam to Abraham the Bible covers only the key events and characters. Much is left an almost total blank leaving nothing to suggest the length of time intervening between events. Also the greater part of the 430 yrs of Israelite history in Egypt is left blank with key incidents only described.

The Bible gives no exact date for man's creation. The Bible record shows that it may just be possible to give an extremely rough estimate because of the principle of **gaps in the biblical genealogies** and because of the 800+ year lives of those who lived between the named individuals of Genesis 5.

However, these genealogies cannot be stretched beyond reasonable limits. It seems unlikely that the time could be extended beyond a few tens of thousands of years. Nevertheless, these genealogies should not be used to form a chronology in an attempt to date Adam's creation because the flexible usage of the Hebrew word for *father* can mean **ancestor** or **progenitor** and *son* can mean **progeny**. E.g. at Genesis 28:13 God tells Jacob: "I am the God of your father (Heb. *ab*) Abraham." Yet Abraham was Jacob's grandfather. There is a compressing of time - a telescoping so that: When X had lived Y years, he became father of **a family line** that included or culminated in Z. E.g. Numbers 3:17-19,27-28 speaks of the "*family of Amramites*," numbering 8,600 in Moses' time. This shows that Amram was not himself Moses' father in Genesis 5.

WAS CREATION DRAMATICALLY CHANGED AT THE 'FALL' OF ADAM?

- ❖ "...his invisible attributes...have been clearly perceived, ever **since the creation** of the world (Gk. *Kosmos* = world of mankind), in **the things that have been made**" (*Rom. 1:20*).

Hence there has been no dramatic change since the completing of creation of mankind. Everything about our planet is basically as it was made in the beginning.

AN ORIGINAL WORLD WITHOUT DECAY IS ILLOGICAL

If such a world existed then all cells would not break down and so it would be impossible for any creature to eat or breath or excrete or to shed surface skin etc.

OBJECTION 1:

- ❖ "To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, "You must not eat of it," '**Cursed is the ground** because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce **thorns and thistles** *for you*, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return'"

(*Gen. 3:17-19*).

REPLY: This was not a universal curse lasting up to the present time. It was a curse pronounced only upon Adam as a punishment so that he would barely be able to produce food. Separately **the ground for Cain was cursed** for him only further showing that the curse on the ground for Adam was for him personally:

- ❖ "And now you [*Cain*] are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength" (*Gen. 4:11, 12*).

Such cursing of the ground did not occur elsewhere. Certainly at later times the ground produced abundantly e. g. Canaan (the spies report) and Joel's description of the land as like the Garden of Eden. So the language concerning the curse is not suggestive of any such significant change to the rest of the physical world. Adam and Eve's suffering because of thorns, thistles, sweat and **increase in childbirth pains** was as a result of being thrown out of Eden and losing access to the '*Tree of Life*.' Before Eve's sin, had she had a child, she would have experienced childbirth pains, but now they were to be increased.

NOTE:

- The cursing of the ground in the time of Noah concerned the Flood (*Gen. 8:21*) because of the pre-flood people's wickedness and was not connected to Adam's situation.
- The "curse" mentioned in Revelation 22:3 (KJV, NASB) is better translated as "anything accursed" and has nothing to with the cursing of the ground placed upon Adam.

OBJECTION 2:

Didn't all of creation become subjected to futility and decay because of Adam and Eve's sin?

- ❖ “For the creation (Gk. *Ktisis*) waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was **subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from the **bondage to decay** and obtain the freedom of **the glory** of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been **groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now**” (Rom. 8:19-22).

REPLY: The creation (Gk. *Ktisis*) spoken of here is a reference to mankind as is the case in 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:15 and Colossians 1:23. This passage does not say that this condition came about as a result of the Fall of mankind. Rather it speaks of “*the pains of childbirth until now*,” meaning ‘for all times up to now’ and indicating that mankind has symbolically been the unborn child waiting to become the child born “**in glory**.” Adam was never ‘in glory’ even though God declared everything perfect. This indicates that the **bondage to decay** was from the beginning which is also what the **second law of thermodynamics** tells us i.e. everything breaks down. This must have been the case for Adam otherwise he would not have been able to eat. Because Adam, in a state of probation, failed to maintain sinlessness, he made mankind’s ‘**groaning**’ worse. Ecclesiastes 1:4-10 is a commentary on Genesis 1 and 2 concerning this ‘futility’/‘vanity’ that existed from the beginning showing that:

- ❖ “...there is **nothing new** under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, ‘See it is new’? **It has been already in the ages before us**” (Eccl. 1:10).

ANIMALS WERE NOT DEATHLESS BEFORE ADAM'S SIN

Animals outside of Eden could not eat of the ‘*Tree of Life*’ which, in any case, only existed for man’s benefit. Once mankind began to die he became “**like the beasts that perish**” (Psalm 49:12, 20). It was Adam who, now as Satan’s agent, introduced sin into the *kosmos* i.e. the world of mankind and not the world of animals:

- ❖ “Just as through **one man** sin entered *the world*, and death through sin, and thus death spread *to all men*” (Rom. 5:12).

This is not speaking of the direct cause of sin, namely Satan, but the one *through whom sin came*. Yet the animals have been affected to some degree by man’s sinful nature. This, however, did not turn once herbivorous animals into carnivorous animals. It is wrong to assume that “*very good*” meant a perfect creation in every sense of the word. In Adam’s time even lower animals and plants got killed whenever someone walked on them. So, prior to the Fall, animals evidently eventually died.

CARNIVOROUS ANIMALS EXISTED BEFORE ADAM.

The term ‘wild animal’ (Heb. *chayyah*) = animals that were mainly carnivorous as evidenced by Genesis 37:20, 33; Leviticus 11:27; 26:6, 22; Ezekiel 5:17; 14:15, 21; 29:5; Hosea 2:12 and 13:8. These are all references to *chayyah* that are dangerous and that devour humans or other animals. Further proof that some of the animals were carnivorous before Adam’s time can be found in another creation account, namely Psalm 104 as the ‘**Creation Psalm**.’

- ❖ “The young lions roar after **their prey**” (Ps. 104:21).

If these animals were not carnivorous, but simply herbivorous domestic animals there would be no need to mention them separately:

- ❖ “Where were you *when I laid the foundations of the earth*? ... Can you hunt the **prey** for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens or **lie in wait** in their thicket? Who provides for the raven **its prey** when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?” (Job 38:4, 39-41).

In this creation account there is no mention of these animals suddenly becoming carnivorous because of the 'fall' but of having been made the way they are since "the foundations of the earth were laid." Their purpose was to eat the carrion and pick off the sickly animals in the herds, thereby keeping the herds healthy. The land animals that are dated back to **50 million years ago** are now extinct.

❖ "Can you draw out Leviathan with a fish-hook...Around his **teeth is terror**"(*Job 41:1, 14*)
This is still part of the creation account started in chapter 38 showing that Leviathan had not changed but was originally created as dangerous.

PRE-FLOOD PEOPLE WERE NOT ALL VEGETARIANS

❖ "...to every beast of the earth...to everything that has the breath of life I have given every green plant for food" (*Gen. 1:30*).

This simply states the importance of green plants as the foundation of the food chain i.e. that all life depends ultimately on them. All creatures also eat foods that are not green i.e. mushrooms, parsnips. So this evidently does not mean that the creatures were forbidden to eat anything else. Professor Gordon Wenham notes that there is nothing in this passage which prohibits humans from eating meat.

NO CHANGE OF DIET

❖ "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you" (*Gen. 9:1-3*).

The word *now* in the NIV does not appear in the Hebrew text. So this statement to Noah is simply a repeat of what was said to Adam and Eve to:

❖ "...have **dominion over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves" (*Gen. 1:28*).

The phrase "*have dominion over*" implies more than simply having control over but having the use of the animals for clothing and food. With God's supplying of animal-skin garments for Adam and Eve and with Abel being a shepherd and offering a first-born of the flock it is evident that the animals were to serve human needs. Then from Noah's time there was a new start for mankind after the earlier descent into wickedness. Yet it would be on the same basis as for Adam. Additionally, concerning food Paul stated that:

❖ "...everything created by God **is good** and nothing is to be rejected" (*1Tim. 4:4*).

So we can, in no way view carnivores as not having been part of God's pronouncement of the creation as 'good.'

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION THAT IS SUPPORTED BY SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

The universe had a beginning 13.6 billion years ago by means of the miraculous hot Big Bang event and has been expanding and cooling ever since. This event explains only the beginning of the fine-tuned universe with the laws of physics having remained constant since the Big Bang. After that event there was further miraculous intervention for all the design features of the universe. For instance, our Milky Way was perfectly located by the Creator on the surface of the universe and with the 4.5 billion year old Earth uniquely created with plate-tectonic activity and residing at the ideal location for housing intelligent life and civilization. Also Earth's life-forms were uniquely created and so natural selection, mutations or other so-called mechanisms of evolution are demonstrated to be unbiblical, unscientific and unnecessary for explaining all of the factors that nature's record reveals including the discoveries of other hominids earlier than mankind. This goes also for the interpretation of the fossil record with regard to both hominids and other creatures that have experienced a pattern of extinction and miraculous replacement. From the biblical perspective it is evident that some animal species have always been carnivorous and naturally all animals eventually die as they do today.

CONCLUSION

It is **The Ancient Creation Model** that brings together all of the biblical and scientific data so that they are in harmony. This is a model that is being constantly verified by scientific discoveries. Such discoveries demonstrate the faultiness of the opposing views and make it evident that Christians must be constantly analyzing their interpretations of the Biblical data so that errors in understanding are not perpetuated as they were in earlier centuries. These scientific discoveries further demonstrate that Theistic Evolutionists and Naturalistic Evolutionists must also acknowledge the faultiness of their interpretations of some of the physical data and their theories with reference to the origin of life.

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SUGGESTED READING

The Biblical case for an Old Earth by David Snoke

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