

Please Note: This is a theory based on scientific facts coupled with valid scriptural interpretations.

75 - Old Earth Creationism



There are many Christians and "creation" groups that are completely misunderstanding and misrepresenting what the bible says about the age of the earth and the universe. It is clear from **Genesis (1:1)** that God created the heaven and the earth "in the beginning". In **Genesis (1:2)** God tells us that the earth was (or became) "formless and void". The Hebrew words used for "formless and void" are "tohu va bohu". These words describe an earth that was a desolate wasteland. **Isaiah (45:18)** tells us specifically that God did not create the earth "tohu" or "formless" but He created it to be inhabited. It's believed (but speculative) that the fall of Satan was responsible for this destruction. With proper scriptural research, it can be shown that God "repaired" (**See Hebrews 11:3**) the earth and created mankind and all currently living creatures approximately 6,000 years ago in six literal days; however, the earth and universe are much older.

The Gap Theory

In the 1800's and early 1900's, there were great advances in science and theological understanding. Dinosaur bones had been found and documented, geology was being understood as it never had been before, and there were a large number of Christians that were able to get printed copies of the bible as well as Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic references. This greatly enhanced the understanding of scripture verses that had been difficult to understand for many centuries. At this time it became a common belief that the earth and universe were very old and the 6 days of creation were actually a re-creation because something had happened that made the earth "formless and void". This is sometimes called the "Gap Theory". Renowned theologians such as E.W. Bullinger and Clarence Larkin documented this understanding in their biblical commentaries. The term "gap theory" is no longer used because some groups started saying that evolution must have occurred inside the "gap". This began to cause great confusion and misunderstanding of what the gap theory was about. That is why the term "Old Earth Creationism" was coined and is used now.

Old Earth Creationism

Old earth creationism is a scriptural interpretation that believes that God created the heaven and the earth a very long time ago in a perfect and pristine form. All of the prehistoric plant and animal life, including dinosaurs, existed at this time. At some point a catastrophe took place (probably the fall of Lucifer) and the earth became "without form and void". Another unknown period of time occurred during which there was no light and the earth was totally inundated with water and ice. **Genesis (1:3)** is when God first speaks and begins His work of fixing the earth. Old earth creationism does NOT support evolution...there is simply a large gap of time between God's original creation of the heaven and the earth and the 6 days of creation recorded in Genesis that took place approximately 6,000 years ago.

Young Earth Creationism

Anyone who believes the universe and earth are only 6,000 years old are known as "young earth creationists" (YEC's). They typically misunderstand and misinterpret many verses of scripture, particularly **Genesis (1)**. They also create false scientific explanations that support a 6,000 year old earth while rejecting valid science that supports an earth and universe that are billions of years old. Many YEC's are causing division among Christians and also causing non-Christians to think that the bible is foolishness. YEC's also believe dinosaurs existed alongside people for thousands of years and that Noah took them on the ark when the earth was flooded. Several scientific facts prove dinosaurs didn't exist alongside mankind including the depth of their fossils in the earth and that their mass was too big for the gravity at that time.

Things That Support an Old Universe and Earth

While it is definitely true that God created Adam (and Eve) with some advanced age (they were created as adults not as babies) as well as animals and plants, it seems unlikely that God would try to "fool" everyone into thinking the universe and earth were old by making age an integral part of nearly everything we can view and measure in the universe. There are many valid scientific realities that point very strongly to an old universe and earth. Here is a list of just a few of the strongest evidences that support a very old universe and earth. Again, please note that there is no such thing as evolution...God created everything!

Starlight	Scientists have very accurate ways to measure the distance of stars from our planet and each other. A light year is the distance light can travel in a year. Based on observation and measurement, the universe is estimated to be over 14.5 billion years old.
Mountain Ranges	Based on the shape of mountain ranges, estimates can be made as to how old they are. The more "jagged" a mountain range is, the newer it is and the rounder the mountains are, the older they are. These are only "ballpark" estimates but it takes hundreds of thousands to millions of years for mountain ranges to go from high and jagged to low and rounded. Mountain ranges like the Rockies, Andes, and Himalayas are new, jagged, and high. This fits the Atlantic continental split theory which probably took place in the days of Peleg, "in his days the earth was divided", See Genesis (10:25) . The bible says the mountains were covered by the flood (Genesis 7:19-20), that's only possible if these extremely high mountain ranges didn't exist yet.
Diamonds	Diamonds are formed deep below the surface of the earth when carbon is compressed under high temperatures for very long periods of time. It is estimated that it takes from hundreds of millions to billions of years for a diamond to form naturally.
Fossil Fuels	Fossil fuels were formed when plants and animals died millions of years ago and were buried. Over millions of years, heat and pressure turned them into gas, oil and coal that we extract from deep in the earth today. Realize that these fuels that are now deep underground used to be the earth's surface.
Geological Strata Column	The geological strata column is the layering that is very clearly visible in the earth's surface and crust. Based on radiometric dating of particular rocks found in particular layers, the age of each layer can be estimated. There are hundreds and hundreds of very distinct layers that take tens of thousands of years each to form. In certain parts of the earth, these layers become visible due to water erosion over very long periods of time. Also note that Noah's flood occurred approximately 4300 years ago. This would put anything that died and was covered with sediment into layers very near the top of these layers. Noah's flood could not have possibly killed the dinosaurs whose fossils are many layers below the layer of Noah's flood.
Ice Cores	Ice core samples are a very good way of determining the age of ice sheets. Every year the ice on the surface that is exposed to the sun melts a little and it also has dust dropped onto it. The next winter, snow falls on the surface and it packs into another layer of ice covered with dust. This occurs over and over again creating very deep layering that permeates all the way through ice sheets. By drilling down into the ice sheets and extracting a core, scientists can see what the atmosphere was like in the past by analyzing the dust and gases that were trapped in each layer. There are ice cores that have been extracted that are estimated to be over 250,000 years old. Ice cores strongly support a very old earth that has seen much change.

