

How Far Back Can Man See?

In attempts to ascertain the age of the earth, one finds major discrepancies between the 6,000 years dating back to Adam, as seen in Scripture, and some of the dates man has come up with, going back much, much farther than 6,000 years — sometimes many millions of years.

So, what do you do with all of this? What or who do you believe?

First, the age of the earth is *UNKNOWN and CANNOT be determined, in either the Scriptures or in man's science.* There is *NOTHING* to work with.

We can go back 6,000 years to the restoration of the earth and the creation of man in Gen. 1:2b-31, but that's it.

Also, note the second part of this pamphlet — “Unknowns in the Restoration” — relative to *specific things which are not known*, along with the necessity for the restoration of the earth being a *complete restoration*.

But what about dating methods used which show the earth much older than 6,000 years?

In actuality, one *CAN'T* use dating methods to either date the earth's creation in the beginning or its restoration 6,000 years ago.

Any and all dating methods which man uses today are *based on one or more assumptions, which cannot be proved.* And all are *based on uniformitarianism* (all things have continued unchanged since the beginning).

The Flood during Noah's day, *ALONE*, would destroy any uniformitarian thought. In short, dating methods used *CANNOT* go back behind the Flood (some 4,300 years ago), for *no one knows about existing conditions with the canopy of water above the earth.*

Thus, *ANY* dating method dropping back behind about 2300 B.C. is flawed at the outset.

Unknowns in the Restoration

Now, think about something else. When God restored the earth, did He restore it with apparent age?

That is, what does a newly created tree or rock look like?

For example, does a newly created tree have rings, etc? At the time of creation (creation at the time of the earth's restoration), if this tree had been subjected to one of the dating methods used by man today, would it show zero time or maybe the passage of a number of years?

We really don't know, though probably the latter, for man, immediately following the earth's restoration, was created with evident age (fully grown).

It is things such as the preceding that individuals are faced with through believing some of the material put out by man, seeking to either reconcile it with Scripture or destroy that which Scripture has to say.

Just simply believe the Word. You will *ALWAYS* come out ahead!

AGE OF THE EARTH

*Millions of Years?
Or, Much Younger?
Or, Maybe just 6,000 Years?*

By Arlen L. Chirwood

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (II Peter 3:3-8).

Note one thing about the restoration of the earth in Gen. 1:2b-25 which should be understood. This restoration could only have been *a complete restoration*. No trace of “the world that then was” (the world preceding the ruin seen in Gen. 1:2a), or the subsequent ruined earth (in Gen. 1:2a), can be seen in “the heavens and the earth, which are now” (II Peter 3:6, 7).

A complete restoration would have removed *all traces* of anything having to do with “the world that then was” or with that world during the unknown and unrevealed time that it lay in a ruined state.

That is to say, geology today *CANNOT* show evidence of any type pre-existing creation or a ruin of that pre-existing creation, for *a complete restoration* — the only type restoration possible through the Divine work seen in Genesis chapter one — *would have removed ALL traces of a pre-existing creation and ruin*.

Had the preceding not been the case, God would have created man, untainted by sin, through using that tainted by sin [the earth] — *an impossibility*.

In this respect, all that exists in the present secular world of history and science — *e.g.*, the complete fossil record, the dinosaurs, topographical formations such as the Grand Canyon, etc. — would have to be placed this side of the restoration seen in Gen. 1:2b-25, within time covered by “the heavens and the earth, which are now.”

That which occurred during and re-

sulted from the Noachian Flood, 1,656 years following the restoration of the earth [Gen. 6-8], along with later topographical changes on the earth during the days of Peleg (born 100 years after the Flood [Gen. 10:25]), *must be looked to* for explanations of numerous things of the preceding nature, not to a world lying in ruins in Gen. 1:2a, or to a world existing prior to that time.

(To illustrate some things about the preceding, I’ll relate an account.

In 1983, my son and I walked across the Grand Canyon, north rim to south rim [the canyon lies east to west], and spent the night at the Phantom Ranch at the bottom, on the Colorado River.

While at the Phantom Ranch, that evening, a park ranger gave a lecture concerning the formation and age of the canyon, which, of course, was from a completely secular standpoint.

The canyon, it seems, was some sixty million years old; and one other thing which the ranger had to say caught my attention.

The ranger said that there was one thing which they had never been able to figure out and didn’t understand about the formation of the canyon.

He pointed up-river toward Lake Powell [the Colorado river runs out of this lake into the canyon], calling attention to the 3,600-foot elevation of the lake. Then he pointed down-river toward Lake Mead [into which the Colorado River

runs coming out of the canyon], calling attention to the 1,200-foot elevation of this lake. Then he called attention to the north rim of the canyon being 7,500 feet and the south rim being 6,500 feet.

Then he said, “What we have never been able to figure out and do not understand is how the Colorado River ran up hill to cut this canyon out.”

Of course, he said this somewhat tongue-in-cheek. But, it is a good question, which deserves an answer.

And the answer is not difficult to come by at all. Scripture tells you how the canyon was formed.

It could only have been formed at the end of the Noachian Flood when God began to raise and lower land masses to move the water from one point to another.

This could only have caused massive erosion over a short period of time, cutting out this canyon, as massive amounts of water ran from the Rocky Mountain range being raised into the Pacific basin being lowered, along with massive erosion of a similar nature which can still be seen throughout much of the western U.S. today, 4,300 years later.

For information on this aspect of the Noachian Flood, refer to the author’s book, [Prophecy on Mount Olivet](#), Chapter IX, “The Days of Noah.”)

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