

Exploring the Age of the Earth

This week: Explore scientific and Biblical views on the age of the earth

1. Assume: God reveals through observation, set regular patterns for the creation, and gave us capacity to reason and understand the revelation (Jer. 33:25)
2. Encouragement for humility and grace in the debate
 - a. R.C. Sproul, 2012 Ligonier National Conference Q&A
 - b. Augustine, The Literal Meaning of Genesis
3. How scientists measure time
 - a. tree rings (Dendrochronology)
 - b. varves, annual ice layers
 - c. Radioactive methods (carbon, other elements)
4. Biblical challenges regarding young earth
 - a. Light and dark are separated on Day 1, then again on Day 4 (creation of sun and moon)
 - b. Evening and Morning are declared for three days without a sun and moon
 - c. Gen. 1 & 2
 - d. Events before Gen. 1? (Job 38:4-7, 2 Pet. 3:3-7, Isa. 14:12)
 - e. Gen. 1&2, Hebrews 4:9-11 Long seventh day of creation?
5. Biblical challenges regarding old earth
 - a. Natural reading of Gen. 1, genealogies
 - b. Mark 10:6
 - c. Exodus 20:9-11
 - d. Clearly, a global flood is not in the mind of scientists
 - e. What kind of "death" entered into the world with sin?
 - f. Time for evolution?
6. Nine views of creation: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/creation.cfm>
 - a. Theistic Evolution (God creates through evolution)
 - b. Gap Theory (old universe/earth, 6-day creation)
 - c. Day-Age Theory (indeterminate length to day)
 - d. Apparent Age Theory (young earth created to look old)
 - e. Punctuated 24-hour Theory (millions of years between days)
 - f. Scientific Creationism (young earth, flood geology)
 - g. 24-Hour days (literal 24-hour day creation)
 - h. Framework Interpretation (general plan, loose chronology)
 - i. Historical Creationism (figurative creation, loose chronology)
7. Reminder for grace and humility