

Valuing what God Values

Part 4: The Truth about Creation - part 2

PETER DEWITT
AGATHOS CHURCH
MAY 21ST, 2017

Full Text (for reading on your own)

Don't Give Way

Isaiah 54:2 says *"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes."* This series about strengthening our stakes. Bigger tents require strengthened stakes. If our conscience is weak (not dirty, but weak) about issues that are controversial to the world, then we will shrink back in the face of opposition - instead of holding fast to the truth and setting them free.

Proverbs 25:26 says *"Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked."* (NIV) John 15:3 says that we are already clean because of the word that He has spoken to us. We are clean in Christ and we are a pure spring - rivers of living water - and the Lord is saying "do not shrink back before the wicked, but instead stand firm." The righteous are bold as a lion! The wicked flee though no one pursues but the righteous are as bold as a lion! You cannot set people free with the truth if you won't hold on to the truth when they question it!

Love and Truth / Truth and Love

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life - no one comes to the Father except through Him! Jesus is the Truth (Jn. 14:6). Now, 1 John 4:8 says that God is love. Watch this. The bible says we should speak the truth in love. Why? Because if you remove love from the truth, it is no longer the "T" Truth! He is the Truth AND God is love. If you remove love from the truth, you no longer have Truth! Speak the truth in love! Likewise if you remove the truth out of love, it is no longer love.

John 1:17 says *"For the law was given through Moses, but **grace** and **truth** came through Jesus Christ."* There is that combination again! Grace and Truth! In John 8:5, the Pharisees asked Jesus a profound question concerning the woman caught in the very act of adultery: *"Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But **what do You say?**"* In other words, the Pharisees knew what the law said, but they asked Jesus what "Grace and Truth" says about it. So what did Jesus (Grace and Truth) say to this woman? *"**Neither do I condemn you (GRACE)... go and **SIN no more.****" (TRUTH)* (John 8:11) Grace & Truth!

The inability or unwillingness to correct is NOT love. Recently, a 10 or 11 year old boy on his bike darted out in front of my moving car with no warning. He didn't even look before doing it. He could have died. Thank God I was going slow and he was fine. While I didn't know this boy (and therefore did not particularly want to correct him about this), I thought to myself "how many times do you get to dash out in front of a car before you die?" Not many!

Proverbs 29:1 says "*Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.*" This is what happens with drug addicts ... they know they should stop, but they don't and each time they do it, they survive. One time (and they don't know which time it will be) they suddenly don't survive. The trouble is that in American culture we have moved away from correction. If you remain stiff-necked after many corrections you will suddenly be broken beyond repair, but in American culture there is not a lot of correction! Bosses aren't correcting. Parents aren't correcting. The inability or unwillingness to correct is not love.

So, in that moment I thought "this boy is only going to have a few chances to dash out in front of a car like that before he gets hit and this is one of his chances. Am I going to love him enough to correct him?" So, I pulled up to him, stopped him, and in love I corrected him, coached him, and had him tell me how he would do it different next time. That's correction. That's love. It might have saved the boy's life!

We need to remember that we (as believers) are salt (Mt. 5:13) which means we are supposed to preserve things and hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. (Prov. 24:11) We need to remember that we are light (Mt. 5:14-16) and not have anything to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. (Eph. 5:11)

Why are we talking about the "controversial" stuff? Because we need to if we are going to love people well! If we take the truth out of love it is no longer love. Likewise, if we take love out of the truth, it is no longer Truth!

Proverbs 24:23-25 says "*These things also **belong to the wise**: It is not good to show partiality in judgment. He **who says to the wicked, 'you are righteous,'** him the people will curse; nations will abhor him. But **those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them!***"

All of Proverbs is about wisdom but some parts of Proverbs "belong to the wise." This means some folks won't get these sayings - they are spiritually discerned. You have to have faith to receive them. This is one of those sayings. "Those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them!" Do you know that God has sent you into some situations to correct someone - to set them free? The bible says that when you will do that, you are supernaturally going to have delight put on you by the Father Himself, who is wanting someone to father this person, wanting someone to shepherd this person, wanting someone to correct this person. And when you step into

that role, the Lord says “I am going to bless you and I am going to give you a supernatural delight doing even what you don’t want to do.” God will give us a special blessing for fathering / mothering that person in our lives who needs it.

This is a supernatural promise - like “a gentle answer turns away wrath.” I’ve had the lead of the Lord to let people yell at me in rage before. I wouldn’t always do that, but under the lead of the Lord, I just let it roll off me like water off of a duck’s back. A causeless curse will not land on me! I am like Teflon! Any tongue that rises against me in judgment, I condemn it because I am righteous in the Lord! So, I follow the promise “a gentle answer turns away wrath” and have had a supernatural repentance come on the person yelling at me. But you have to act by faith in order for that to happen. Proverbs 24:23-25 is the same way ... if we will correct at the lead of the Lord, a delight is going to come on us and a special blessing is going to be given to us because we have partnered with that person’s heavenly Father who desires us to partner with Him in parenting His creation!

The Truth about Creation

God is not so concerned with defending His Word - or about His Word being destroyed. Flesh and grass will fade away but His Word will endure forever! He doesn’t need us to defend His Word - He simply doesn’t want people to be destroyed. He is NOT willing that any should perish.

Many people have been perishing because they have been believing a lie that His Word is not true. When I was 15 years old, I learned evolution in a parochial school’s biology class. Inquisitive minds wonder! Our 12, 13, 14, 15 year olds may lack life experience but these kiddos are SMART! So if we start teaching about evolution, they are going to wonder! They are thinking “I’ve heard about Noah, I’ve heard about Moses, I’ve heard about Jonah, but how does all of that fit with this (evolution)?” When I was 15, I heard about evolution and I started wondering what this all meant about God. Someone in our class even asked the biology teacher (very good teacher, very nice guy, very genuine) and he responded “well I still believe that God made everything.” That is a lame answer! That doesn’t answer anything for those SMART, inquisitive minds. All the cognitive conflict between the Word of God and evolution still exists in their minds.

When I was first born again I struggled for 5 years trying to reconcile evolution and the Word of God. I received sage advice from someone who was discipling me “let everything else conform to the Word of God; don’t conform the Word of God to everything else.” So good!

Back to 15 years old, I heard “I still believe that God made everything” but the logic didn’t compute. Within 2 years I was agnostic and within probably 3 years I may have been almost atheistic. By college I was telling folks in dorm rooms that they should not believe in the bible. Then I met my wife who led me to the Lord!

American Statistics

A Barna study found that out of those people raised in the Christian faith in America, by the time they were 29 (as of 2006), 80% were no longer spiritually active. These are the children of the 80's and 90's. Watch out for the fruit of the 2000's! (By the way, there is a revival stirring in America! I have never been more encouraged for the church or for America than I am right now!) But, statistically, even the old data (it would likely be worse now) says that 80 out of 100 kids in the typical American church will NOT be spiritually active by the time they are 29 years old. How sad!

The Barna study also shows that the vast majority of the 80% that were not spiritual active had stopped being spiritually active before they were 18 years old! Our nation's children are falling away from the faith before they go off to college! It turns out that 40% had their first doubts about the truth of the Word of God in middle school. Another 43% had their first doubts in high school. This leaves very few left to doubt it in college. 12, 13, 14, 15 years old and they are being taught the religion of naturalism at school and being made to think that they are idiots for believing the Word of God. And the pastors aren't speaking to it, and the homes aren't speaking to it. The result is that inquisitive minds will wonder and they are having tests on the evolution content at school but at church and home they get trite answers like "we still think God made things." Inquisitive minds will think "Sunday school didn't sound like this and this doesn't sound like Sunday school - these things don't match up." The silence of the church is driving students to those who *apparently* have all the answers! The kids fade away because they are not being taught the truth. Teaching the truth about creation matters for us and it matters for our kids!

In a recent Pew research study, 70% of Americans identify as Christians (which is great!) 46% of Americans say they have a biblical worldview. However, when surveyed over 40, Christianity 101 questions, only 10% of Americans have a biblical worldview. The sub-groups break down like this (% of each group that when tested had a biblical worldview):

- 31% of born-again Christians
- 25% of theologically conservative adults
- 19% of pro-life advocates
- 88% of theologically conservative adults
- 45% of those who read their bible daily
- .5% of LGBTQ adults

Interestingly the age of respondents seemed to correlate with having a biblical worldview:

- 17% of those 65+ years old

- 15% of those 50-64 years old
- 7% of those 30-49 years old

Do you notice the catastrophic drop with age! If only 7% of 30-49 year olds have a biblical worldview, can you imagine or extrapolate down to the younger ages? The church needs to speak on these “controversial to the world, but not controversial to God” topics! The bible is actually very clear on them. We don’t want to be weak about what the bible is strong on ... and as a result leave people in bondage to believe the lie that God’s word is not true!

Is Genesis Literal about the 6 days of Creation?

Dr. James Barr, Hebrew scholar and Oriel Professor at Oxford University, has written: *“Probably, so far as I know there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Genesis 1 through 11 intended to convey to their readers the ideas that (a) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience; (b) the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to latter stages in the biblical story . . .”* This is not defense of doctrine, but simply a commentary on the Hebrew text from a linguistic perspective. So the first point to note is that to Hebrew scholars, the text is plain - Genesis 1-11 records a literal 6-day creation event and provided a literal chronology through the genealogies it shares.

I used to wonder to myself “perhaps the language of Genesis is meant to be taken poetically?” Many people wonder about this and thereby have genuine questions about it. I struggled with this topic for 5 years or so. Don’t feel bad if you are grappling with it. Hebrews 11:3 says *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”* It’s by faith that we can understand the creation. How do we increase our faith? By hearing the Word of God! So, be patient with yourself if you’re not fully settled about these topics yet. Dig into the Word and let the Words do the work ... but let this teaching be a door-opener that hopefully addresses some of the things that we’ve maybe heard.

So, should the creation account in Genesis be taken poetically? Good question. There is Hebrew poetry. I will say this, poetry is not necessarily inaccurate. There are many examples of historically accurate poetry in the Old Testament. There is indeed poetry in Genesis. Genesis 4:23-24 is written in poetic form. The whole creation account is Genesis 1-3 and NONE of Genesis 1-3 is written in poetic form. Genesis 4:23-24 is in poetic form. Genesis 1-3 is NOT in poetic form. Even were Genesis 1-3 written in poetic form, it could still be historically accurate, but it is NOT in poetic form! So, is Genesis 1-3 meant to be taken poetically? No! It would have been written poetically (like Gen. 4:23-24) if it was meant to be taken poetically. But it is not written poetically! Again the

Hebrew scholars see this as well “creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience.”

People will also ask if there are gaps in the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies. I spent a lot of time studying this, but there is much written on this. I will share a couple points:

- 1 Chronicles 1 and Luke 3 (other parts of the Word of God) site the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies as literal, historical genealogies. That should tell us something.
- Jude verse 14 says that if you start counting from Adam, Enoch is the “7th from Adam.” That is exactly what the Genesis genealogies say!
- There are genealogies in the bible that are meant to be taken as lineage genealogies. Paul knew he was of the tribe of Benjamin. Jesus is clearly established in the gospels as being of the tribe of Judah. Moses was of Levi. It was important for Jews to know their tribe. Those are lineage-type genealogies. For instance the genealogies in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 establish that Jesus is of David, of the tribe of Judah, and that He was the second Adam.
- Those lineage-type genealogies were not about years. There is something very different about the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies in that they always say the age at which the next generation was “begat” or “fathered.” Why? Because you quickly add up the history. Genesis 5 and 11 represent what could be called a “chrono-genealogy.” They do not only establish lineage, but also a timeframe for the history of the earth. This is exactly what the Hebrew scholar said “the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to latter stages in the biblical story . . .”

Now let’s look at the actual language of Genesis. In my NKJV bible it lists a literal translation for Genesis 1:5 “*and evening was, and morning was, a day, one.*” If a friend told you about their vacation by saying “and evening was and we went out to dinner, and morning was and we went out to breakfast, and that was the first day - day one of our vacation.” Would think “boy, they must have been talking about a decade of their life allegorically!” It’s clear as day! “Evening” means evening. “Morning” means morning! A day - one. God is so emphatic.

In Genesis 1:14 God, through Moses, uses the word “year” in the same verse as “day.” The same word for “day” (like in Genesis 1:5) is used all the way through the creation story in Genesis 1. In verse 14, the word for year and the word for day appear in the same verse. What does that tell us? Moses knew the word for year but chose not to use it throughout the description of the 6-literal-day creation event - because they were talking about days not years!

Genesis 2:3 “*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*” This connected the sabbath of a week to the week

of creation - not a coincidence. Speaking of the 6th day of creation, Genesis 5:1-2 twice says God created man in a day “*...In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.*” In Exodus 20:11 we read what God Himself spoke to Moses “*For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.*” Day, day, day! They were 6 literal days!

But what about 2 Peter 3:8 where we read that “*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*” Let’s look at that.

There is a bit of a problem using 2 Peter 3:8 to try to “interpret” the days of creation because 2 Peter 3:8 says both (1) one day is as a thousand years, and (2) a thousand years is as one day. So 2 Peter 3:8 could either interpret Genesis to say that 6 days equals 6 thousand or even 6 billion years (to try to reconcile the Word of God with evolutionary theory like I was trying to do for 5 years) ... or that same verse would imply that 6 days was actually 6 hours or 6 seconds for all of creation! 2 Peter 3:8 goes both ways so which way should we use it to interpret Genesis 1-3? If 2 Peter 3:8 was meant to unlock a hidden timing in Genesis, it is awfully confusing!

Was God confused in the historical timeline He was giving us? No! 2 Peter 3:8 has NOTHING to do with the historical Genesis timeline. We must look at 2 Peter 3:8 in context! The previous verse (verse 7) shares that many people will try to forget about / ignore the coming judgment. Then verse 8 says we should not forget that God made time, exists outside of it, and is therefore not in a hurry. Finally verse 9 says “*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*” 2 Peter 3:8 is about the end-time judgment. These verses are saying “don’t think that God is running late. He is not slack concerning His promise to come back and judge the world. He simply doesn’t want anybody to perish and He exists outside of time so it doesn’t hurt Him at all to take extra time so that more can come to repentance! He is not wringing His hands and becoming impatient. It is easy for God to wait! Why would He wait? Because He is so loving! He is not being slack concerning the promise, but He is more motivated by the salvation of souls than by “timeliness” of His arrival. He is trying to give as many people as much of an opportunity to receive Him as possible! How good is He!

2 Peter 3:8 is not talking about Genesis timelines at all! Were it talking about them, it would be very confusing ... and if you read the context, it is very clear what it is talking about.

What did Jesus say about the Age of the Earth?

All of this is so you can total confidence in the Word of God! I don’t want you to have nagging thoughts “what about evolution?” “What about the age of the earth - did God miss it on that?” The

bible answers these questions clearly! Likewise, we don't want other people to whom we are ministering to have those doubts and not be able to help get them freed up to trust God, His Word, and His goodness!

Let's look at Mark 10:2-6 *"The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" testing Him. And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her." And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'"*

What is the context of this conversation in Mark 10? Divorce - and therefore marriage. Now, do pandas get married? Fishes? Animals? No! Who get's married? Humans, of course! So in speaking about the marriage of humans, Jesus said (in verse 6) *"But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'"*

This is our Lord speaking! "From the beginning of creation God made male and female people!" It is clear Jesus is talking about people (speaking of divorce and marriage) and He said that people were made by God at the BEGINNING of creation. Jesus would NOT agree at all with any part of historical evolutionary theory! From the beginning of creation God made humans! So when did *Homo sapiens* appear? After the apes "evolved" for 3 million years? From the BEGINNING of creation man and woman have been on the earth - and marriage has been on earth! So encouraging!

There are 3 or 4 common arguments to Mark 10:6 which have such a confusing logic model that it took me a quite a while to even understand what they are trying to claim! For instance, one famous apologist (surely well meaning but drawing erroneous conclusions) recently tried to explain away Mark 10:6 because he can clearly see how damaging this verse is to a millions-of-years worldview. So, this apologist (remaining un-named b/c I am not trying to be critical of the apologist but instead constructive for the reader) has developed a rebuttal to Mark 10:6 that Jesus was limited by his humanity in His understanding of history. That's a painfully off-base argument:

- If Jesus was limited in His understanding of history by His humanity, then He should not have made this statement about history in Mark 10:6 because He would be lying. But we know our Lord did not sin as evidenced by Him rising again (see Rom. 4:25).
- Another aspect of this apologist's argument is very weak. We read very clearly in scripture that Jesus remembered just fine how satan fell from Heaven like lightning. Satan's fall happened prior to Adam and Eve - so I am sure Jesus remembered creation just fine! In the beginning was the Word! (Jn. 1:1)

It is so key that as part of our bible-reading time that we slow down enough to catch these things. There are no insignificant details in the Word of God! Jesus promised that even the smallest marks of the Word would not be deleted! It is great to read for coverage - keep doing that - but also take the time to dig deep. Even the smallest parts of the Word of God are perfectly powerful! We can dig deep into the Word and not hit bottom.

Let's also look at Luke 11:49-51. *"Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' that **the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world** may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation."* You can take Jesus at face-value. He just said that there were prophets at the foundation of the world!

If that seems like a stretch to you, keep reading ... *"from the blood of Abel ..."* Wow! Jesus was saying that Abel was a prophet! Hebrews 12:24 also says the exact same thing - that Jesus is the Mediator of a new covenant and Jesus' blood speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. The blood of Abel is crying out to God about the wickedness of Cain, but Jesus' blood is covering over our sin and crying out about our righteousness in Him! Abel was a prophet. Abel's blood was acting prophetically.

Jesus was saying that there were prophets at the foundation of the world. When was the foundation of the world? The beginning. So, Abel was born of Adam and Eve when they were about 150 years old. Out of 6000 years, that is about equivalent to the first 3 minutes of a 2 hour movie. Would you call the first 3 minutes of a 2 hour movie the "beginning"? Of course. So did Jesus. *"the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel ..."*

Why all of this about Creation?

Remember that in John 5:45-47 Jesus says *"For **if you believed Moses, you would believe Me**; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*

Charles Lyell came up with the principle of uniformitarianism. In 1830, he wrote about it. Darwin took Lyell's book and principle and said it was the most powerful work behind his theory of evolution. Lyell's theory of uniformitarianism was prophesied in 2 Peter 3:4 a full 1775 years before it was published in 1830. His name was "Lye - ll." God has a sense of humor. He put a neon sign on this one for us!

According to Jesus Himself, to the proportion we don't believe the writings of Moses, to the same proportion we will not believe the sayings of Jesus! That is what is driving these statistics. There is a generation that has been raised up in the religion of naturalism which says "don't believe the bible."

Even Lyell wrote in letters to friends that his goal was to “rid the science of Moses.” Lyell, a trained lawyer, said they would take the pastors with them on this theory. I am not going to shepherd the flock like that. I was stuck between the Word of God and evolutionary worldview for 5 years, but once you get this issue settled in your heart by the Word of God it is a relief to be able to take all of the Word of God at face value!

Text Summary (for reading as a group)

If our conscience is weak (not dirty, but weak) about issues that are controversial to the world, then we will shrink back in the face of opposition - instead of holding fast to the truth and setting them free. You cannot set people free with the truth if you won't hold on to the truth when they question it! Jesus is the Truth (Jn. 14:6) and 1 John 4:8 says that God is love. The bible says we should speak the truth in love. Why? Because if you remove love from the truth, it is no longer the "T" Truth! Likewise if you remove the truth out of love, it is no longer love.

John 1:17 says *"For the law was given through Moses, but **grace** and **truth** came through Jesus Christ."* In John 8:5, the Pharisees asked Jesus what He "Grace and Truth" says about the woman caught in the act of adultery. So what did Jesus (Grace and Truth) say to this woman? *"Neither do I condemn you (GRACE)... go and **SIN no more.**" (TRUTH)* (John 8:11) Grace & Truth!

The inability or unwillingness to correct is NOT love. Proverbs 24:23-25 says that if we will correct at the lead of the Lord, a delight is going to come on us and a special blessing is going to be given to us because we have partnered with that person's heavenly Father who desires us to partner with Him in parenting His creation!

God is not so concerned about His Word being destroyed - He simply doesn't want people to be destroyed. He is NOT willing that any should perish. Many people have been perishing because they have been believing a lie that His Word is not true. A Barna study found that out of those people raised in the Christian faith in America, by the time they were 29 (as of 2006), 80% were no longer spiritually active. Our nation's children are falling away from the faith before they go off to college! It turns out that 40% had their first doubts about the truth of the Word of God in middle school. Another 43% had their first doubts in high school. This leaves very few left to doubt it in college. 12, 13, 14, 15 years old and they are being taught the religion of naturalism at school and pastors and parents aren't speaking to it! Likewise, in a recent Pew research study, 70% of Americans identify as Christians (which is great!) 46% of Americans say they have a biblical worldview. However, when surveyed over 40, Christianity 101 questions, only 10% of Americans have a biblical worldview. The numbers are even lower for the younger generations. We need to speak clearly about what the bible is clear about!

So, is Genesis Literal about the 6 days of Creation? Dr. James Barr, Hebrew scholar and Oriel Professor at Oxford University, has written:*(a) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience; (b) the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to latter stages in the biblical story . . .*" This is not defense of doctrine, but simply a commentary on the Hebrew text from a linguistic perspective.

Don't feel bad if you are grappling with the truth about creation. Hebrews 11:3 says *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."* It's by faith that we can understand the creation. How do we increase our faith? By hearing the Word of God! So, be patient with yourself if you're not fully settled about these topics yet. Dig into the Word and let the Words do the work ... This teaching is meant to be a door-opener that hopefully addresses some of the things that we've maybe heard.

Should the creation account in Genesis be taken poetically? There is Hebrew poetry - many examples of which in the Old Testament are historically accurate. There is indeed poetry in Genesis. Genesis 4:23-24 is in poetic form. Genesis 1-3, however, is NOT in poetic form. Even were Genesis 1-3 written in poetic form, it could still be historically accurate, but it is NOT in poetic form! So, is Genesis 1-3 meant to be taken poetically? No! It would have been written poetically (like Gen. 4:23-24) if it was meant to be taken poetically. But it is not written poetically!

People will also ask if there are gaps in the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies. Note that 1 Chronicles 1, Luke 3, and Jude 14 all cite the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies as literal, historical genealogies. Also note that while the Bible contains many "lineage-establishing" genealogies, those lineage-type genealogies are not about years. There is something very different about the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies in that they always say the age at which the next generation was "begat" or "fathered." Why? Because you quickly add up the history. Genesis 5 and 11 represent what could be called a "chrono-genealogy." They do not only establish lineage, but also a timeframe for the history of the earth. This is exactly what the Hebrew scholar said "the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to latter stages in the biblical story . . ."

Now let's look at the actual language of Genesis. The literal translation for Genesis 1:5 is *"and evening was, and morning was, a day, one."* It's clear as day! "Evening" means evening. "Morning" means morning! A day - one. God is so emphatic. Similarly telling, in Genesis 1:14 God, through Moses, uses the word "year" in the same verse as "day." The same word for "day" (like in Genesis 1:5) is used all the way through the creation story in Genesis 1. In verse 14, the word for year and the word for day appear in the same verse. What does that tell us? Moses knew the word for year but chose not to use it throughout the description of the 6-literal-day creation event - because they were talking about days not years!

Genesis 2:3 *"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done."* This connected the sabbath of a week to the week of creation - not a coincidence. Speaking of the 6th day of creation, Genesis 5:1-2 twice says God created man in a day *"...In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created."*

In Exodus 20:11 we read what God Himself spoke to Moses *“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.”* Day, day, day! They were 6 literal days!

But what about 2 Peter 3:8 where we read that *“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”* Let’s look at that. There is a bit of a problem using 2 Peter 3:8 to try to “interpret” the days of creation because 2 Peter 3:8 says both (1) one day is as a thousand years, and (2) a thousand years is as one day. If 2 Peter 3:8 was meant to unlock a hidden timing in Genesis, it is awfully confusing! So, was God confused in the historical timeline He was giving us? No! 2 Peter 3:8 has NOTHING to do with the historical Genesis timeline. We must look at 2 Peter 3:8 in context! These verses are saying “don’t think that God is running late. He is not slack concerning His promise to come back and judge the world. He simply doesn’t want anybody to perish and He exists outside of time so it doesn’t hurt Him at all to take extra time so that more can come to repentance!”

All of this is so you can total confidence in the Word of God! Now, what did Jesus say about the age of the earth? Let’s look at Mark 10:6 *“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’”* What is the context of this conversation in Mark 10? Divorce - and therefore marriage. This is our Lord speaking! He said that people were made by God at the BEGINNING of creation. Jesus would NOT agree at all with any part of historical evolutionary theory! From the beginning of creation God made humans! So when did *Homo sapiens* appear? After the apes “evolved” for 3 million years? From the BEGINNING of creation man and woman have been on the earth - and marriage has been on earth! So encouraging!

It is so key that as part of our bible-reading time that we slow down enough to catch these things. Let’s also look at Luke 11:49-51. *“Therefore the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,’ that **the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world** may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.”* You can take Jesus at face-value. He just said that there were prophets at the foundation of the world! Jesus was saying that Abel was a prophet! Hebrews 12:24 elaborates on the exact same thing.

Why all of this talk about Creation? Remember that in John 5:45-47 Jesus says *“For **if you believed Moses, you would believe Me**; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”* Charles Lyell came up with the principle of uniformitarianism. Lyell’s theory of uniformitarianism was prophesied in 2 Peter 3:4 a full 1775 years before it was published in 1830. His name was “Lye - ll.” God has a sense of humor. He put a neon sign on this one for us!

According to Jesus Himself, to the proportion we don't believe the writings of Moses, to the same proportion we will not believe the sayings of Jesus! That is what is driving these statistics. There is a generation that has been raised up in the religion of naturalism which says "don't believe the bible." Even Lyell wrote in letters to friends that his goal was to "rid the science of Moses." Lyell, a trained lawyer, said they would take the pastors with them on this theory. May we not be stuck between the Word of God and evolutionary worldview but instead be able to take all of the Word of God at face value!

Points to Ponder . . .

- Why is speaking the truth in love key to representing God correctly?
- What do statistics tell us about the importance of clearly teaching the truth about Creation?
- What do scholars say about the language of Genesis 1-11?
- How do we know Genesis 1-3 is not meant to be taken poetically?
- What makes the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies different?
- What does the actual language of Genesis 1 tell us about the timeline of Creation?
- What does 2 Peter 3:8 really mean / refer to?
- What did Jesus say about creation?