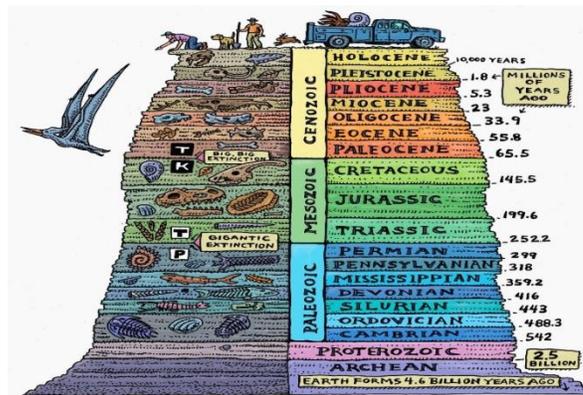


Millions of Years

Most people in the world (even Christians) believe that the world is millions of years old. Many will contend that the age of the earth doesn't really matter, that it doesn't affect their belief in God and his word. But until the 19th century, the Bible was accepted as literal, and creation as occurring in six literal days – so how did this idea of millions of years get started and why does it matter?

The idea of millions of years is shown and based on 'geologic charts' like this:



In our world of 'science' there are two types: Operational science and Origin science.

Operational Science

Origin Science

All scientists have the same facts, the same evidence around them, but their interpretation of the facts depends on their starting assumptions or worldviews.

There are basically three worldviews that have been promoted through history about the age of the earth and the universe:

Deism

Atheism

Christianity

History of the Earth Age Debate

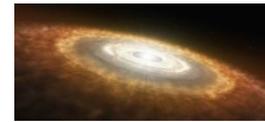


Comte de Buffon 1707-1788 (deist)

Wrote book called “Epochs of Nature” – imagined earth forming from a molten ball which cooled over millions of years.



Pierre Laplace 1749-1827 (atheist – astronomer)



Imagined the solar system as forming from a flattened spinning gas cloud that formed rings which became the planets over untold ages.



Jean Lamarck 1744-1829 (deist/atheist - biologist)

Proposed that all plants and animals came from a common ancestor.



Abraham Werner 1749-1817 (deist/atheist – geologist)



Proposed that the sedimentary rocks around the world were the result of a slowly receding ocean over long periods of time.



James Hutton 1726-1797 (deist/atheist - doctor/geologist)

Observed sediments eroded and carried to the sea, imagined them sinking to sea floor, hardening, and being lifted up to form new continents which erode and repeat the process endlessly.

Proposed the theory of uniformitarianism →



George Cuvier 1769-1832 (deist – anatomist)

Proposed that the earth had suffered several worldwide floods which buried life forms forming fossils with long periods of time between the catastrophes.



William Smith 1769-1839 (deist)

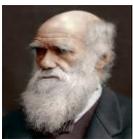


Came up with the idea to use different fossils to give relative 'dates' to rock layers.



Charles Lyell 1797-1875 (deist/atheist – lawyer/geologist)

Promoted uniformitarianism. Stated that there were no catastrophic events and that all earth history was the result of slow gradual change. "One must ignore the scriptures when studying geology".



Charles Darwin 1809 -1882 (atheist – biologist/ naturalist)

Was highly influenced by Lyell and published the book know as the basis for evolutionary theory – 'Origin of Species'- in 1859.

These early theories were based on the assumptions of:

The catastrophic view –

The uniformitarianism view –

'Christians' often accepted these non-biblical views and have tried to fit these views into the Bible.



Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847) Presbyterian minister

Began to preach the "gap theory" ->



George Stanley Faber (1773-1854) Anglican theologian

Proposed the Day-Age theory ->

To explain Noah's flood:

William Buckland (Oxford U) and Adam Sedgwick (Cambridge U) Anglican clergy



(1784-1856)



(1785-1873)

Proposed the flood was a global flood but only had local Mesopotamian effects.



John Fleming (1785- 1857) Presbyterian minister and zoologist

Proposed that the flood was a 'peaceful' flood and left no visible effects behind –



John Pye Smith (1774-1851) - Congregational minister

Proposed the flood was only local and exaggerated in the Bible.

Liberal theologians in the time insisted that Genesis 1-11 is mythology based on prescientific ideas. And a few 'young earth' creationists held to the Biblical view resulting in many debates.

Many of the 'well-known' theologians have accepted men's ideas of an earth millions of years old. Examples:

Charles Spurgeon – accepted the gap theory and millions of years

Scofield – accepted the gap theory and millions of years

Charles Hodge – Princeton Seminary teacher – claimed the age of the earth didn't matter to truth of the Bible. Those who followed him embraced theistic evolution

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

If the creation did not occur the way the Bible literally says that it did, how can one be sure of the accuracy of any of its teachings?

Psalm 11:3

When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"