

## Lesson 3 "Creation" – The Age of the Earth

What we see in God's World agrees with what we read in God's Word.

### The Influence of the Scopes Trial (1925)

We need to train ourselves to think, to be able to recognize the difference between scientific facts, which can be observed in the present, and ideas about the past, which can be used to interpret the facts.

### The Elements of True Science

1. True Science is testable, repeatable, & falsifiable. Evidence exists in / is testable only in the present.
2. Limitations of a scientist in the present: unique events such as creation of universe/earth/biological life; non-measurable events or processes such as the rate of evolution, the rate of sedimentary deposition. No one can prove creation or evolution. Anyone can look at the historical record and build a model then test it.
3. The **Evolution Model**—Evolution is a belief about the past to explain the evidence that only exists in the present, and the belief is based on the words of men who were not there. Evolution is an untestable story about the past and so is not scientific.
4. **The Biblical Model**—Three past events that affected earth history from a scientific viewpoint and one event that affected the history of the nations:
  - Creation—6 days, the celestial objects, land and sea, plants, animals, and man
  - Curse—ground, pain and death, food chain, poisonous and nuisance creatures, affected the whole creation according to Romans 8:20-22
  - Flood—affected the planet surface entirely for > 1 year, afterwards man's diet changed to become meat eaters; also the animals' diet
  - Tower of Babel—the existing population was divided into language groups that spread out and repopulated the earth

### Assigning Age to the Earth, Rocks and Fossils

#### Using Evolution to Date Rocks and Fossils

Neither rocks nor fossils have birthdates stamped on them when they are collected. Yet, the theory of evolution demands *old* age. An evolutionist dates the rocks by the kinds of fossils in them (primitive or advanced). Then, the fossils are dated by the sequence location of the rock in which it is found. Layers on the bottom were obviously deposited first. The age of the rocks are determined by the stage of evolution of the index fossils found therein, which are themselves dated and organized by the age of the rocks. This is circular reasoning.

#### Using Process "Clocks" to Date Rocks and Fossils

Observe and measure a present process. Assume it acted the same way in the past. Calculate the time necessary for that process to produce the present state. The system (clock) that gives the oldest "time" is radioactivity; the dating method is known as Radioisotope Dating. Radioisotope methods commonly used for obtaining age of a substance formed in prehistory are Uranium/Lead (Ur/Pb), Potassium/Argon (K/Ar) and the presence of Helium.

### Assumptions of Radioisotope Dating and Objections to Them

1. Constant **DECAY** rate—Assume the rate hasn't changed over time. The decay rate has only been observed in this century. Some rocks show that the decay rate must have been more rapid in the past.
2. System **CLOSED** to the environment—Assume that nothing has been leached into or out of the rock over the years. It is known that the uranium isotope can be leached out of, and the lead can migrate into, rocks over the years.
3. Known concentrations at **START**—Assume that no daughter element was present in the rock when it was formed. Some lead occurs naturally in rocks when they are formed.
4. Enough **TIME** to produce present state through measured processes—Assume the result will give the *desired* date for the sample. Time is history and history cannot be observed scientifically. There is *no way* for a scientist in the present to come up with an age for things of the past without written historical record.

### Examples of Radioisotope Failure on Rocks of Known Age

- Sunset Crater, Arizona—erupted in 1065 A.D. Dated by K/Ar method at 210,000-230,000 years.
- Mt. Rangitoto, New Zealand—erupted 300 years ago. Dated by K/Ar method: 485,000 years.
- Vulcan's Throne, Grand Canyon, Arizona—erupted within last 2000 years. Dated by K/Ar method at 10,000 years.
- Hualalai Volcano, Hawaii—the people on the island of Kaupelehu watched the rock form during a volcanic eruption in 1801. Dated by K/Argon method at 1-2.96 billion years; dated by Helium method at 140-670 million years.
- Mt. Kilauea, Hawaii—erupted less than 200 years ago. Dated by K/Ar method at 21 million years.

### Examples of Radioisotope Failure on Rocks of Unknown Age

Two lava flow formations—the Cardenas Basalt and the western Grand Canyon lava flows. Both are basalts (lavas), ideal for radioactive isotope dating. The one on the top repeatedly dated older (by a billion years or so) than the one on the bottom.

Radioisotope dating has not been disproved. It has been called into question, flaws in its foundation exposed, and its results shown to be inconsistent. Bible-believing Christians need not be intimidated by radioisotope dating.

### The Carbon-14 Process Clock

Carbon-14 method can be used only on materials containing carbon, particularly once-living substances such as bones, skin, and trees. Cosmic rays from the sun bombard nitrogen in the upper atmosphere producing C-14, which then mixes with the other carbon in the world's supply and eventually finds its way into all living organisms. When an organism dies, no new carbon-14 is brought in from the outside. That which is present decays into nitrogen, and radioactivity continually decreases. After 5730 years, half the original C-14 decays to nitrogen. Only the amount of C-14 changes over time. The method measures the remaining C-12/C-14 ratio but is still based on the assumptions mentioned above.

### Examples of Carbon-14 Method Failure on Fossils of Known Age

- An Allosaurus from a rock layer near Grand Junction, CO supposedly 140 million years old—The bones, heavily blackened, contained 3% carbon and were tested to show a C-14 date of < 16,120 years.
- An Acrocanthosaurus found along the Paluxy River near Glen Rose, Texas—The C-14 analysis of the bone samples showed it to have died < 9890 years ago. Yet, the rock in which it is found is dated to have formed ~99 million years ago.
- Carbonized wood from Glen Rose found in the same layer as dinosaur footprints (99 million years old)—The C-14 analysis showed the wood to be ~12,000 years old.
- Coal from Russia with a rock layer evolutionary age of 300 million years—The C-14 analysis showed a date of only 1,680 years.
- Examples of living creatures and resulting C-14 analysis in years old): a freshly killed seal (1300 years old); living mollusk shells (2300 years old); snail shells (27,000 years old)

### How to Interpret what You Read and Hear:

- Look for the facts. Discern facts from interpretation.
- Question the assumptions used to derive the facts and/or interpretations.
- Consider the same facts with the assumption of Biblical history.