

APOLOGETICS 8 – THE AGE OF THE EARTH PART 2

INTRODUCTION

Apologetics - ἀπολογία apologia

The definition of Christian Apologetics is “the information that enables a believer to provide a defense for why a doctrine is believed.”

1 Peter 3:15 – But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

In the last lesson, we discussed the age of the Earth, demonstrating two things:

1. The biblical age of the Earth is less than 10,000 years.
2. The dating method used by atheistic naturalists does not truthfully demonstrate that the Earth is over 10,000 years old.

Today, we will scientifically demonstrate that the Earth is young and that the biblical model is accurate.

YOUNG EARTH EVIDENCE

1. The first evidence that we have is the Bible. It is the record of the creation of the world in accordance with the One who was there. To those who say that it is not evidence, I would say that it may not prove to their satisfaction that the world was created less than 10,000 years ago, but written records are evidence.
2. Supernovas – The Crab Nebula. According to astronomical theory, this and other nebulae are the result of supernovas. Taking that for granted, astronomers observe a new nebula in our galaxy every 25 years. The number of “supernova remnants” in our galaxy that we have observed, is about 200. Assuming the rate is constant, this would account for only 5,000 years of supernova events.
3. Comets – Comets are supposed to be the same age as the solar system. Each time a comet orbits close to the sun, it loses some of its material. Based on the size and trajectory of most comets, the average lifespan of a comet is 10,000 years. So, why do we still have comets?
 - a. Evolutionists explain this discrepancy by assuming that comets come from an unobserved spherical “Oort Cloud” located well beyond Pluto’s orbit.
 - b. The Oort Cloud is a theory unsubstantiated by any observation or data.
4. The Electromagnetic Field of the Earth – Scientists have observed that the total energy stored in the Earth’s magnetic field is decreasing with a half-life of about 1,500 years. Going backward and taking for granted that this rate of decrease is stable, one can project how strong it was in the past. At that rate, the field could not be more than 20,000 years old. Just 10,000 years ago, the field would have been too strong for human life to exist.

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5. Sodium Content in the Oceans – Sodium content in the oceans increases yearly through natural deposits from runoff and rivers, increasing the amount of sodium by 330 million tons yearly. Now that seems like a lot, but the salinity is only about 3.5 percent. The current rate of increase is about 0.5% per 50 years. Assuming that the oceans started at 0% and assuming the rate of increase has been constant, the Earth's oceans are less than 35,000 years old. I do not believe the oceans began at 0% salinity. Also, the rate of increase has undoubtedly had some significant flux due to volcanic activity and ice age melt-off. This date is still congruent to the biblical model as the flood of Noah would have had massive erosion of the Earth's surface and, therefore, at the oceans' birth, their salinity would have already been significant.
6. Human Genetics – Every generation, we can see a slight degradation in the human genome. Geneticists can observe that the harmful genetic mutations are worse than when they first discovered them; they can actually rate the amount of degradation. Based on the rate of alteration, mankind is less than 10,000 years old. (Book Suggestion – Genetic Entropy by J.C. Sanford).
7. Oldest Trees – In the White Mountains of California is what is possibly the world's oldest living organism. It is a Bristlecone Pine tree, given the biblical name of 'Old Methuselah.' The tree-ring count currently dates it at 4,855 years old. We know that tree ring count may not be completely accurate, but if that is the oldest living tree, it would date back to the flood, consistent with the young Earth.
8. Human Population – Eight billion people live on the Earth. Calculating the growth rate needed to get today's population from Noah's three sons and their wives after the flood is relatively easy. With the flood occurring about 4,500 years ago and beginning with eight people, the population growth on average up to today would be around .46%.
 - a. The claim by atheistic naturalists is that the human population was around 4 million at 10,000 BC and they justify their claim by coming up with the ridiculous growth rate of 0.04% from 10,000 BC and 1,700 AD.
 - b. If there were 4 million people at 10,000 BC and the growth rate was 0.1% the population would be 650 Billion.
 - c. If humans have been around for 100,000 years, giving a .1% growth, the number can only be expressed in an exponential equation (36 zeros). If the growth is 0.04% for 100,000 years, the current population would be 467,020,389,977,771,970.
9. Waterfalls – Niagara Falls currently erodes about 3 feet a year. This would make the age of the falls 12,000 years, but historical data demonstrates that the falls eroded upwards of 5 feet per year in the late 1800's. This places the age of the waterfall at about 7,000 years. But when we consider the flood and very fast erosion in the immediate aftermath of the flood, the falls are predictably around 4,500 years old.

Nothing proves the age of the Earth, but the overwhelming evidence fits the biblical chronology.