

## Lesson 16: HOW OLD IS THE EARTH?



1. Some Christians believe the Earth is **YOUNG** – just 6,000 – 10,000 years old.
2. Some Christians believe the Earth is **OLD** – millions or billions of years old.
3. Some Christians believe **WE WILL NEVER KNOW FOR SURE**.

### WHY THE CONFUSION?

- **Science (Study of Nature) seems to show that the Earth is OLD.**

Evidence?

- Rock layers that can't form quickly
- Fossils are not mixed up
- Massive amounts of bio deposits
- Polar ice layers
- Varves (layers) in lakes
- Volcano cross-checking
- Radio-metric dating
- Coral Reefs
- Salt Layers and chalk cliffs
- Star light and light years
- Plate Tectonics

- **Literal reading of the Bible seems to say the Earth is YOUNG.**

Many believe the days in Genesis 1 & 2 were 6 consecutive 24-hour days.

When genealogies are added up:

Adam to Moses: 2,000 years +

Moses to Jesus: 2,000 years +

Jesus to Today: 2,000 years

Age of Earth: = 6,000 years.

יום - "DAY"



**Watch This Video:**

<https://youtu.be/5aZIDRdvYYk?si=4sDsRUCpR7hvwRiO>

Who is Right in the Young Earth vs. Old Earth Debate?

By JUCE, Reasons to Believe.org (3:20)

## WHAT DO YOUNG EARTH CREATIONISTS BELIEVE ABOUT NATURE?

**Young Earth “Creation Scientists”** (YEC’s) believe the Earth appears “old” because of the effects of Noah’s Flood. They believe:

Earth was different before Noah’s flood:

- No predation (animals & humans only ate plants)
- Temperate Climate around the earth
- No Rain before the flood



Noah’s Flood resulted in:

- Formation of tall mountains and deep canyons
- Depositing of most of the earth’s rock layers
- Formation of fossils (rapid fossilization)
- Breaking apart of the earth’s plates

The Ice Age occurred soon after Noah’s flood and lasted 700 years

The Earth and Universe were created with the “appearance of age.”

Note: Some Christians don’t agree. They aren’t sure that a miraculous flood would leave world-wide physical evidence as put forward by YEC’s. They also disagree with the rapid (recent) changes described above.

## IS THERE A WAY TO READ GENESIS 1 & 2 THAT ALLOWS FOR AN OLD EARTH?

Some Christians believe that the 6 Creation Days can be understood in various ways.

- Some point out that the Hebrew word “Day” (**YOM**) has many meanings. It has 3 *different* meanings in Genesis 1 & 2.



Day = *period of daylight* (Gen 1:5, 16)

Day = evening & morning cycle indicating a *24-hour day* (Gen 1:6, 8...)

Day = a *long period of time* with a beginning and an end (Gen 2:4) similar to our English saying, “back in the day.”



- Some Christians believe that the Creation Days weren’t necessarily 6 *consecutive* 24-hour days, rather the “days” were long periods of time.
- Some Christians believe that the Creation Days were each 24-hours, but the days were separated by long periods of time (not consecutive.)
- Some Christians believe there may have been a long time (gap) between Gen. 1,2 and verse 3 when Creation Days began.

### IS THE "AGE OF THE EARTH" A NEW QUESTION?

Some have suggested that the "Old Earth" viewpoint has just come about in recent years as a compromise with Darwinian Evolution. But... "Young Earth Creationism" wasn't popularized until the 1960's when John Whitcomb and Henry Morris published their book *The Genesis Flood*.

A "non-literalistic view" of Genesis 1 was a view held by many Christians through the ages:

Early Church Fathers:	Augustine (early 400's)
Irenaeus (100's)	Gregory the Great (early 600's)
Justin Martyr (100's)	
Clement of Alexandria (100-200's)	Thomas Aquinas (1200's)
Origen (200's)	
Cyprian (200's)	Thomas Chalmers (1800's)
Athanasius (300's)	Alexander & Thomas Campbell (1800's)
Didymus the Blind (300's)	David Lipscomb (1800's)
Basil the Great (300's)	Scofield Reference Bible (1909)

**Science and the Bible *must* agree - they are both from God.**

*We must be willing to look again at our understanding of God's Word & His World.*

Remember Galileo!

For centuries, many Christians were "fixed earthers."

They believed that the Bible teaches that the earth is fixed in one place:

(Psalm 104:5) "He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved."  
 (1 Samuel 2:8) "...For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world."  
 (Job 9:6) "He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble."



In 1616, Galileo's heliocentrism was declared to be "foolish, absurd... and heretical since it... contradicts... the Holy Scripture". His writings were banned and he was placed under house arrest until his death.

Notice the horn on Michelangelo's Moses. Based on the understanding of Hebrew during that time, instead of his face shining, they thought Moses had a horn. **We must be willing to look again at God's Word and His World!**



**FOCUS IN THE TRUTH OF CREATION...  
 RATHER THAN THE AGE OF THE EARTH!**