

Questions Asked By Mid-Schoolers – Part 6
Michael R. Daily, 2013 (updated December 2015)

Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

These questions were submitted anonymously by a group of 30 mid-schoolers who regularly attend church & AWANAs.

Why Do Boys Pick On Girls They Like?

Because they think those girls are beautiful. Most girls are more attractive to boys than the girls think they are. Why? First, Madison Ave. (this street in New York City is also a symbol for the part of American business that markets and sells things) works very hard to make girls feel that they are unattractive. Every day you girls are hit with the same message from Madison Ave. – unless you buy our makeup and go to our hair salons and wear the clothes we tell you to wear you will be unattractive – doomed to a sad, lonely, loveless life. But if you buy our makeup and go to our hair salons, and wear the clothes we tell you to wear you will be beautiful. But it's a lie. Why? Because 95% of what makes you attractive to boys God has already given to you. In other words, if you roll out of bed in the morning, bathe, brush your teeth, comb your hair, and put on modest but winsome clothes you are pretty much there – you are attractive to boys even if you don't feel attractive. Makeup and hairdos are not bad, they do increase your physical attractiveness a few percent. But life is not like the movies - makeup, hairdos, and clothes do not change a girl from unattractive to attractive – they just enhance her God given attractiveness a few percentage points – that's all. The second thing God says about your beauty is that you have been designed to capture the attention of boys (**Proverb 6:20-26, Proverbs 5:18-20**). Girls, you probably do not realize that you have this power to capture their attention, its probably difficult for you to even believe this, but that does not matter, its still true.

When I was in mid-school I was a good student, pretty good looking, and quarterback of the football team. There were 4 or 5 girls at my school that liked me and independently pursued me. These girls were not popular or glamorous, they were just regular girls and nice people – and I thought all of them were quite attractive. During the school year these girls would sit next to me in class, come over and sit with me at lunch, things like that. Although I enjoyed talking with them at school I never pursued them. I never took them on dates or to dances or went over to their house, I never called them on the phone and if they called me I made it clear that I needed to get back to what I was doing – so over time they stopped calling me. About halfway through the school year, each girl became convinced that because of the way I was acting I must think they were unattractive and they started mentioning it. One girl lamented that perhaps if she had a few less pimples she would be attractive. I told her, “you're fine, don't worry about it so much”. Another one mentioned that perhaps if her teeth were a little straighter she would be more attractive. I told her, “you're fine, don't worry about it so much”. Another one complained that her hair was too stringy. I told her, “you're fine, don't worry about it so much”. One day I came into class and one of these girls who sits next to me had her head down on her desk – she was crying. When I asked her why she was crying she said, “I'm fat”. I told her, “you're fine, don't worry about it so much”.

All these girls felt unattractive (partly because of how I treated them). When they mentioned it I would say, “you're fine, don't worry about it so much”. But do you want to know what I was really thinking? I was thinking, “If you were any more attractive I think I would explode”. Of course I never told any of them that. You see the reason I acted the way I did was not because I thought they were unattractive, its because they were too attractive and I wasn't sure how to handle that.

For boys who are first experiencing these feelings, the power of them is a little unnerving. God designed boys to be people of action more than words. So, when they get strong feelings of any kind their first instinct is to DO SOMETHING (**Esther 2:7-8 & 17-18**). Picking on you is doing something with these feelings. As they get older they will learn to channel these impulses to “do something” into more constructive things like take you places and do things for you.

Until then you might try giving them some ideas. However, don't tell them they are picking on you because they like you. All they know is there is something powerful about you but they don't necessarily know what it is yet. Use discretion: *cautious reserve in speech* (**Proverbs 19:11, Proverbs 11:22**). Instead, if a boy picks on you or punches you in the arm say, “Joe, that kind of hurts. If you don't mind could you please get me some cookies from the snack table, I would really appreciate it”. Or if you have to do a task like set up tables or clean the room or something ask Joe to help you (don't forget to smile warmly). The idea is to give him something useful to do that really does help you so that he has a constructive way to use the energy you are creating inside him. It also demonstrates that you are thinking about him so he doesn't have to try to get your attention as much (remember, you already have his attention). These ideas may or may not work. If they work you are in a better situation. If they don't work you are no worse off.

(Proverbs 6:20-26, Proverbs 5:18-20, Esther 2:5-9 & 17-18, Proverbs 19:11, Proverbs 11:22)

For more information on this topic see, “Modesty In Dress For Teenage Women” at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

I have an acquaintance with a disability whose parents want me to be their best friend. What should I do?

I'm going to answer this question with the assumption that this friend is the same sex that you are (otherwise I might give you a different answer than this one). The fact that the other person's parents want you to be friends with their child means that you are someone they would like their child to be like. Congratulations! These adults respect you and approve of the way you live your life (**Luke 2:52**). That is excellent! What is happening is you are beginning to experience the world of adult relationships. These relationships are different than those of childhood (**I Cor 13:11**). The relationships of childhood are based on having fun and sharing common interests between two people who are essentially in the same place in terms of social status and abilities. Children tend to be highly selective of who their "friends" are because children are fundamentally people who are unsure of themselves so they want to have friends who will make them feel better about themselves. Adult relationships are different. Adults have friends who are sometimes many years younger than they are and sometimes friends who are many years older than they are. Some of my friends are 10 or 20 years older than me and have more wisdom than I do in certain areas of life (**Job 12:12**). When I spend time with them two things happen. First, I feel stupider and second, I gain more wisdom. This is a good relationship for me. Why? Because I gain wisdom even though the process makes me feel uncomfortable sometimes. I wonder how they feel about the relationship with me? I'm sure sometimes spending time with me feels like a waste of time for them. I wonder if other people think less of them because they are willing to be seen with me? Them being seen helping me certainly isn't going to impress anyone. Likewise, I have friends who are much younger than me. Some are 10, 20, 30, even 40 years younger than I am! Why do I have these friends? Can they do things for me? No. Does it make people think more highly of me to be seen with these younger friends? No. The reason I have these friends is because I can help them. God has brought other people into my life to help me (**I Thessalonians 5:12-15**) and He has brought me into other people's lives to help them (**Acts 20:35**). See how that works?

So, here is my advice. You should always have 3 types of friends. The first type of friends are called, "wise men". These are older people who are ahead of you and have already been successful in a part of life that you also would like to be successful in in the future (**Proverbs 13:20**). In the adult world we sometimes call these types of friends "mentors". The second type of friends are called, "peer friends". These are friends like you had in childhood and they are mainly just for fun. The third type of friends are called, "weaker brothers" (**I Corinthians 12:22-26**). These are friends that we are going to invest time in for their benefit, not ours, in order to serve them in the name of Christ (**Romans 15:1-3**). This does not mean your disabled friend has to be your best friend or that you have to spend all your time with them. On the other hand the answer isn't zero time either. Your "friend time" should be split across all 3 types of friends. So, God thinks you are ready for the world of adult relationships and has given you the opportunity to serve a weaker brother. Good for you. Take it. Run with it. Set aside your concern about what other people will think of you and enjoy it (**Galatians 1:10**). I have a friend who is many years younger than me and has a disability. But guess what? I enjoy the relationship. I don't do everything he would like me to do but I do some things and we both have a good time and it helps him. The bottom line is (God said it best): "*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited*" (**Romans 12:16**).

(Luke 2:52, I Corinthians 13:11, Job 12:12, I Thessalonians 5:12-15, Acts 20:35, Proverbs 13:20, I Corinthians 12:22-26, Romans 15:1-3, Galatians 1:10, Romans 12:16)

Who Is God?

Before the Apostle Paul became a Christian his name was Saul and he asked the same question:

Acts 9:1-5

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, ² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

So, if you want to know who God is, all you have to do is look at Jesus (**John 12:44-45**). The Bible says that it is possible for people to know and understand God (**Jeremiah 9:23-24**). So, if you want to get to know and understand God, get to know Jesus (**John 14:7-11, John 1:1-18**). The best way to do this is to study the scriptures (**John 5:39-40**) and believe and act on what the scriptures say.

(Acts 9:1-5, John 12:44-45, Jeremiah 9:23-24, John 14:7-11, John 1:1-18, John 5:39-40)

If the Israelites are God's chosen people, will they automatically go to heaven?

No. God deals with humanity on different levels and always by His rules. The rules for a person to go to heaven are about believing that we are incapable of keeping God's commandments and earning our way to heaven (**Rom 3:19-20, Ephesians 2:8-9**). Therefore, the only chance we have of going to heaven is if God does something for us to make it possible (**Colossians 1:13-14, Galatians 2:16**). What He did is come to Earth in the form of a man (Jesus), die on the cross (**Romans 5:8**), and shed His blood to pay for our sins (**Romans 5:9**), be buried and then rise from the dead 3 days later (**I Corinthians 15:1-8**). If we believe that and then give our lives to Christ by inviting Him into our lives to be our Lord and Savior (**John 1:12**) then God will give us heaven for free (**Romans 6:23**)! This is true regardless of whether you are a member of the nation of Israel or not (**I Corinthians 1:18-25**). Even before Christ came to Earth God stated that the Old Testament believers would go to heaven not based on what they did but on their willingness to believe and act on the things God told them, in faith (**Romans 5:1, Galatians 3:11, Habakkuk 2:4, Galatians 3:23-25, Romans chapter 4**).

Separate from all of that God has other rules for dealing with nations. God blesses some nations and judges other nations (**Psalms 47:8, Psalm 22:28**). When God blesses a nation it does not mean that everyone in that nation is doing the right things or is going to heaven. The same is true when God judges or punishes a nation. That does not mean everyone in that nation is doing the wrong thing or going to the Lake of Fire (**Romans 11:1-4**). Let's talk about Israel. Throughout its history God has, at times, blessed Israel and, at other times, punished Israel depending on their obedience as a group. In addition, God also has made some promises to protect Israel that He is going to keep regardless of what Israel does. Why does God protect them? Because of the promises he made to His friend, Abraham, and for the sake of His name (**Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Ezekiel 36:22-28**). Its kind of like promising your close friend who is dying that after he dies you would take care of his kids. Even though his kids may be obnoxious and unlovable you take care of them - not because they deserve it, not because you like them, not because there is anything special about them - you do it because of the promise you made to your friend (**Genesis 12:1-5, Genesis 15:7-18, Genesis 17:18-21, Genesis 35:10-12**). The Bible also says that during the time of the Christian Church (70AD to the Rapture), Israel will be hardened and very few people in that nation will actually put their faith in God (**Romans 11:25-29**). In fact, Romans 11 indicates that, as a nation, Israel will be hostile to the Gospel during the Church period but that will change during the Tribulation period and the Second Coming of Christ (**Ezekiel 20:42-44, Zechariah 12:10**). So, God has a set of rules for interacting with people as individuals and another set for interacting with nations. For more information on this topic see, "History of Israel and the Dragon (Satan)" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

(Romans 3:19-20, Ephesians 2:8-9, Colossians 1:13-14, Galatians 2:16, Romans 5:8-9, I Corinthians 15:1-8, John 1:12, Romans 6:23, I Corinthians 1:18-25, Romans 5:1, Galatians 3:11, Habakkuk 2:4, Galatians 3:23-25, Romans 4, Psalm 47:8, Psalm 22:28, Romans 11:1-4, Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Ezekiel 36:22-28, Genesis 12:1-5, Genesis 15:7-18, Genesis 17:18-21, Genesis 35:10-12, Romans 11:25-29, Ezekiel 20:42-44, Zechariah 12:10).

If Jesus predestined us to become Christians, did He predestine others to be nonbelievers or was it their choice?

The Bible teaches that both things are true at the same time. For example, the Bible says that God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (**I Timothy 2:1-6**). The Bible also says that whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved (**Romans 10:8-16**) and that anyone who chooses to come to God will be received and not cast out (**John 6:35-40**). So, God makes it clear that it is up to each person to make their decision to either come to Christ or live life without Him and that God will hold each person accountable for their decision at the Judgment (**Hebrews 9:27-28**). This is why it is important that we teach others about the Gospel (**II Timothy 4:1-5**). On the other hand, God says that He chose those who would be saved before the creation of the world (**Eph 1:3-14, Rom 8:28-30**). Do we completely understand this? No. But we can get into trouble when we insist on understanding things that are beyond human comprehension. When we do that we will end up getting it wrong or understanding it incompletely. Instead we need to see what the full mind of God is on the issue by studying all parts of the Bible and, for things beyond human comprehension, we need to be content to accept what God has said even if we can't fully understand it.

The Bible presents an interesting case study on this issue with Pharaoh, King of Egypt, during the time of Moses. According to **Exodus 8:12-15** when Pharaoh was given relief from the plagues, the Bible says that Pharaoh hardened his heart in rebellion against God. However, this same incident is discussed in **Exodus 4:21, Exodus 14:4-18, and Romans 9:14-26**. In these passages God says that He raised up Pharaoh and hardened Pharaoh's heart so that He could demonstrate His power to everyone on Earth. So, which is true? Did Pharaoh harden his own heart or did God harden Pharaoh's heart? The answer is: Both are true at the same time. Do we understand this? No. But we believe it and accept it because God has told us that it is true. One last thought. Because free will and predestination are both true at the same time it means that no one will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire because a Christian disobeyed God. If I fail to be faithful in obeying God I will lose rewards and blessings that I would have otherwise received from God but I don't have to live under the tyranny that my failings could cause someone to suffer in Hell for eternity. Predestination is not about excluding people from Heaven. It is about including people that otherwise would have no chance of going to Heaven. (**I Timothy 2:1-6, Romans 10:8-16, John 6:35-40, Hebrews 9:27-28, II Timothy 4:1-5, Ephesians 1:3-14, Romans 8:28-30, Exodus 8:12-15, Exodus 4:21, Exodus 14:4-18, Romans 9:14-26**)

An atheist might say, “If the universe needs a cause, doesn’t God need a cause? What would be a good answer?”

Let’s start with a little background. Some people try to use philosophical arguments to explain why they believe that God exists. The word “philosophy” means: *a search for a general understanding of values and reality by chiefly speculative rather than observational means*. So, philosophy is trying to figure out the truth about things that are outside the capabilities of observational science, without consulting the Bible. Because the beginning of the universe is outside the capabilities of observational science (no human scientist was there to observe it happening) people can either seek to understand it by seeing what God says about it in the Bible or they can try to use philosophy. God tells us that the right answer is to avoid philosophy (**Colossians 2:8-9**) and believe what the Bible says instead. As Christians, we accept the observational parts of science but we reject all the various forms of philosophy. Unfortunately, some Christians believe that when you are talking to an atheist you can’t use the Bible, you have to use something the atheist is willing to accept. Most atheists will accept observational science and philosophy but they will reject the Bible. Don’t fall into this trap. Instead, we’ll use the Bible and observational science in our discussions with them, not philosophy (**I Cor chapter 2**).

The idea that “the universe needs a cause” is a philosophical argument that some people who believe in God try to use to persuade atheists that God exists (bad idea). The original argument, referred to as the Prime Mover Argument, was developed by a Greek philosopher named Aristotle (384 BC to 322 BC). *“Our present position, then, is this: We have argued that there always was motion and always will be motion throughout all time, and we have explained what is the first principle of this eternal motion: we have explained further which is the primary motion and which is the only motion that can be eternal: and we have pronounced the first movement [or: Prime Mover] to be unmoved.”* - Aristotle, Physics, Book VIII, chapter 9. Aristotle’s argument was that everything that changes with time changes because something else caused the change. That something else is also caused by another thing. This chain of events can be traced all the way back until you get to something that causes other things to change but is itself unchanged. In other words, all things that change over time can be traced back through a trail of cause and effect events until you get to one single thing that itself is the first cause of everything but is itself affected by nothing. Aristotle went on to say that this first cause or “Prime Mover” is a being with everlasting life. At this point you might think that philosophy isn’t so bad. It seems to be leading to the right answer. Unfortunately, as Aristotle continues his thought process he also concludes that this eternal being, in order to be the unchangeable Prime Mover must also be: uninterested in the physical universe, uninterested in people, incapable of thinking about anyone except Himself, and must be completely passive, causing things to happen only by attraction (an example of causing passive change is to move a cat by attracting it with a bowl of milk – this moves the cat without causing the milk to move or change).

Later, in the 13th century, Thomas Aquinas adapted these ideas in his development of the Cosmological Argument which claims: Everything that exists or begins to exist has a cause. The universe exists and began to exist. Therefore, the universe must have a cause. The cause of the universe is God. The problem with these speculative ideas is that if the First Cause or Prime Mover can exist without being caused by something else, why does it have to be God? It could just as easily be the “Big Bang”. So, the bottom line is that the Prime Mover or Cosmological Arguments, like all philosophy, end up leading you nowhere (**II Timothy 2:23**). This is why God says to stay away from philosophy. At best, it is the wasting of time for the purposes of telling or hearing something new (**Acts 17:16-21**). At worst, it can deceive you into believing something that is not true (**II Corinthians 10:5**). Let’s go back to your original question. Atheists don’t believe that the universe or anything about life has to have a cause. They believe life is the result of the random interaction of atoms and particles and that nothing in life has a purpose to it. So, if you don’t use philosophy in your discussions with atheists you won’t run into the problem of having to answer this question. Instead use God’s Word (**Isaiah 55:10-11**).

(Colossians 2:8-9, I Corinthians chapter 2, II Timothy 2:23, Acts 17:16-21, II Corinthians 10:5, Isaiah 55:10-11)

Were Adam and Eve able to communicate with the animals?

No more than we can today. There are only two instances of earthly animals talking to people in the Bible and both of these were under miraculous circumstances. One is the serpent in the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 3:1**) and the other was Balaam’s donkey (**Numbers 22:21-35**). There is also a passage in **Revelation 8:13** that indicates an eagle talking but it is easy to show that this eagle is actually one of four angels that will fly through midheaven (Earth’s sky) and make announcements during the future tribulation. The other three of these angels are mentioned in **Revelation 14:6-12**.

In the case of the serpent in the Garden of Eden the serpent was a vessel being used by satan to speak to Eve. So, it wasn’t the animal speaking it was satan speaking using the serpent. In the case of Balaam’s donkey, God or one of His angels was speaking using the donkey. Keep in mind that we have animals today that can mimic human language such as parrots so its not miraculous for animals to be able to make noises that sound like human speech. However, they are just imitating sounds, they are not actually communicating thoughts and ideas – if they did that would be miraculous!

(Genesis 3:1, Numbers 22:21-35, Revelation 8:13, Revelation 14:6-12)

James Ussher added up the dates in the Bible and found that the Earth was created in 4004 BC. Was he right?

James Ussher (1581 to 1656) was the Archbishop of Armagh (The Church of Ireland) and a highly regarded scholar of the Bible. He is one of over 30 Bible scholars who, down through the centuries, have attempted to calculate the year that the universe was created. Most of these scholars were theologians but a few have also been well known scientists. For example, Johannes Kepler (1571 to 1630), a German mathematician/astronomer, also calculated the age of the Earth using the Bible as one of his sources (Kepler was a Christian). Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion were a major scientific breakthrough in the 17th century and laid the foundation for Newton's Laws of Gravitation. In fact, Sir Isaac Newton (1642 to 1727), an English physicist, mathematician, and astronomer (and also a Christian), calculated the age of the Earth as well, using the Bible as one of his sources. To this day Newton is considered by many to be the most influential scientist who ever lived (even beyond Albert Einstein). The reason that James Ussher's chronology is better known than those done by other scholars is because it was included in William Lloyd's 1701 annotated edition of the popular King James translation of the Bible. In this edition Genesis is annotated with Ussher's date of Creation, 4004 BC.

If you look at the graph on the right the estimated date of Creation, calculated independently by 30 different Bible scholars, is somewhere between 3800 BC and 5200 BC with the "sweet spot" being around 4000 BC (the most recent calculation was done in 1993 by Dr. Floyd Nolan Jones in his book, "The Chronology of the Old Testament" in which he also came up with a date of 4004 BC for Creation). **Based on all of these studies, a very strong case can be made that Creation occurred in 4000 BC plus or minus 100 years.**

Why can't we know the exact date? Because the Bible doesn't provide enough information to get any more exact. In his article on Ussher's chronology, James Barr identified 3 periods that Ussher had to analyze: (James Barr, "Why the World Was Created in 4004 BC: Archbishop Ussher and Biblical Chronology", *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester* 67:575-608)

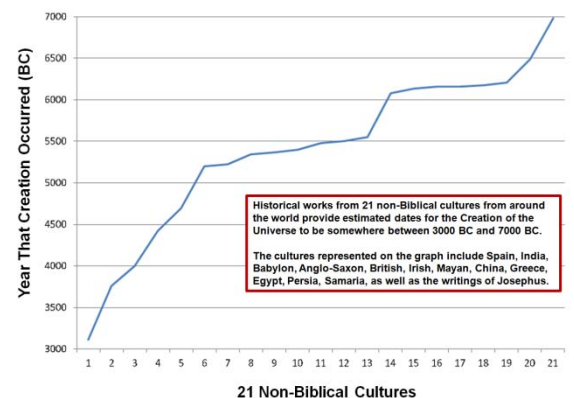
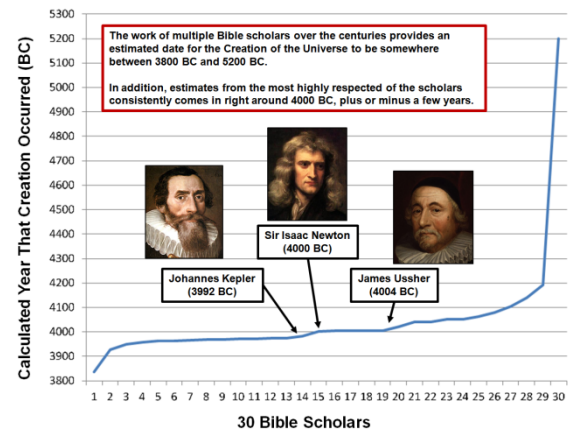
- 1) **Creation to Solomon:** The Bible provides an unbroken lineage from Adam to Solomon, along with the ages of the individuals, making this time period easy to calculate. God put the detail right here, where we need it the most!
- 2) **Solomon to the destruction of the Temple and the Babylonian captivity:** During this time period the Bible no longer provides detailed lineage information but instead provides the length of the reigns of the kings with some general times for some events. Ussher cross-referenced Biblical records with extra-Biblical sources from other cultures and rulers to get an estimate for the time duration of this period.
- 3) **Ezra/Nehemiah to the birth of Christ:** The Bible has limited timing information for this period. Ussher linked known events from this period with a dateable event in another culture, such as the Chaldeans, Persians, or Romans.

So, we can calculate the duration of period #1 very accurately, directly from the Bible. Period #2 can be calculated relatively accurately but has some sources of error in it due to the need to supplement the Bible with non-Biblical sources. Period #3 is the most error prone since we have to rely heavily on non-Biblical historical records. In addition, different scholars would cross-reference to different non-Biblical sources. This is why the estimates of different scholars vary.

We can also look at the historical writings of other cultures to see what they thought the age of the Earth was. Because these historical writings were not inspired by God we would expect their estimates to be less accurate than those based on the Bible. On the other hand, since all cultures descended from Noah and resulted from the scattering at the Tower of Babel we would expect the estimates of these cultures to also be more in line with the thousands of years indicated by the Bible and less in line with the billions of years of current scientific dogma. The graph on the right shows that the non-Biblical cultures of the world estimate the date of Creation to be somewhere between 3000 BC and 7000 BC.

Another approach is to use the fact that there is strong consensus today among all historians, both Christian and secular, that Abraham lived around 2000 BC. Then, using the detailed Biblical records of period #1 above (Genesis ch 1 to 11) we can add the time from Adam to Abraham (about 2,000 years) which, once again, gives us an estimated date of Creation of 4000 BC.

For more information on this topic please see the following websites: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2007/05/30/how-old-is-earth>
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/assets/pdf/2005/TimelineOfTheBible.pdf>



(Genesis chapters 5 and 11)

How does the Bible relate to creation science? Are there any direct references to young earth creationism?

Please read the answer to the previous question before continuing. The Bible relates to creation science the way it relates to everything else in life. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters. This means that in matters of science if science and the Bible disagree then you must decide which one will have authority over the other. As Christians we believe that the Bible is the final authority, not science. An atheist, on the other hand, might believe that science is the final authority, not the Bible (example: scientism). Someone else might believe that neither one is the final authority but both are overruled by a person's own feelings, preferences or experiences (example: postmodernism).

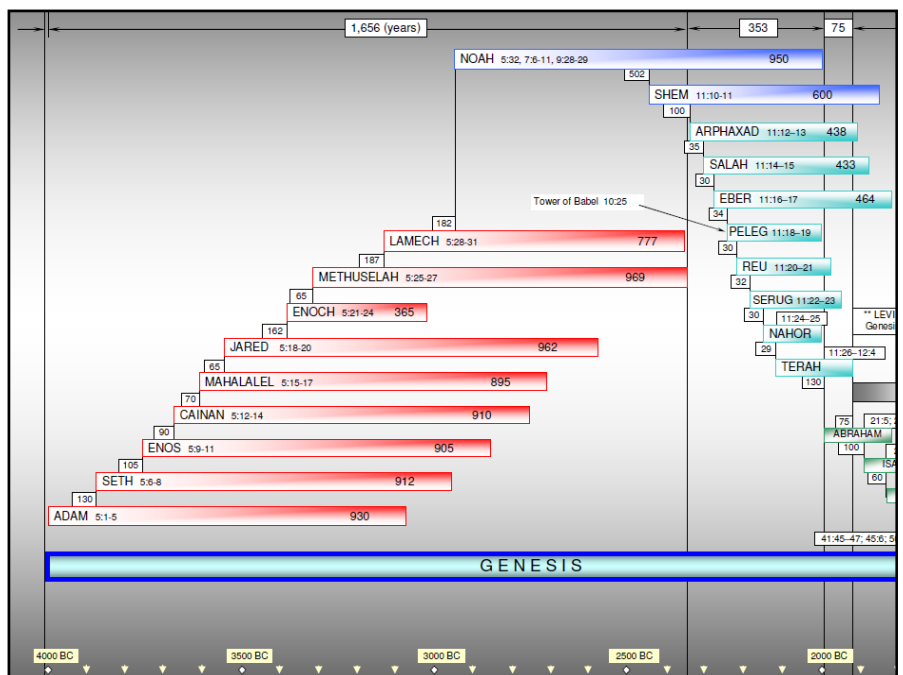
There are many examples throughout history where science believed something was true, for awhile, then later decided that what was thought to be true was not true at all! Although often accused of being inaccurate or untrue from a scientific perspective, the Bible has stood the test of time. Against all historical challenges from science the Bible has been shown, eventually, to be either correct or to not be incorrect. In other words science eventually proves through observational evidence or experimental data that the Bible was right after all or that the claims of the Bible cannot be shown, with evidence, to not be true. The Bible is the only religious writing that I know of for which this is true.

The biggest problem in the area of science is the mixing together of observational and philosophical science. **There are no conflicts between the Bible and observational science.** All of the conflicts between the Bible and science are in the area of philosophical science. This is the part of science that is not based on observational evidence or experimental data. This is the part of science that is based on assertions. An assertion is a strongly held belief that a scientist insists must be true, without providing evidence. This is the part of science that we, as Christians, reject (**Colossians 2:8-9**). Unfortunately, the scientific community intermixes observational science and philosophical science together and tries to present all of it as "real science". As a result, creation scientists spend most of their time trying to show people which parts of science are which. This is not as easy as it sounds. For example, Darwin's discovery of natural selection is part of observational science, but Darwinian evolution is not. However, they both are referred to today as evolution (one is microevolution, the other macroevolution). So, an evolutionist might point to the observational evidence supporting natural selection and, in the same breath, assert that this is evidence supporting Darwinian evolution without missing a beat. The creation scientist then has to help people understand what natural selection is and what it isn't and show why the evidence for natural selection demonstrates that natural selection is true but that the same evidence does not prove that Darwinian evolution is true. The Bible says nothing that conflicts with natural selection but it says a lot that conflicts with Darwinian evolution!

The Bible makes it absolutely clear that the Universe is young (**Genesis chap 1 to 11**).

As you learned in the previous question, God went out of His way to make it clear by providing an unbroken male lineage from Adam to Solomon, along with the ages of the individuals involved. This timeframe includes the life of Abraham, the father of many nations (**Genesis 17:1-8**). Many of the cultures of the world have a history dating back to Abraham with a consensus that Abraham lived around 2000 BC.

Genesis chapters 1 through 11 provides the detailed timeline from Abraham back to Adam right where we need it the most. This timeline is clear. The amount of time that transpired from Adam to Abraham was about 2,000 years. Therefore, the date of Creation was around 4000 BC.



<http://www.answersingenesis.org/assets/pdf/2005/TimelineOfTheBible.pdf>

Now let's switch gears. Dinosaur remains were first discovered by English physician Gideon Mantell in 1820. However, over 3,000 years ago the book of Job describes an animal, Behemoth, with a tail the size of a cedar tree (**Job 40:15-24**) which is enormous. The conversation between Job and God indicates that dinosaurs were alive at the same time that Job was. This is consistent with the Bible's claims in Genesis that the universe is young. By the way, Dr. Mary Schweitzer at North Carolina State University has isolated soft tissue from the femur of a dinosaur fossil. There is no known way that organic material such as this could remain intact for millions of years. (**Genesis 17:1-8, Job 40:15-24**)

For more information on this topic see, "Observational Science Compared To The Bible" at:

<http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

Why can we see stars billions of light-years away since it would take billions of years for their light to reach us?

(Reference: D. Russell Humphreys, *Starlight & Time: Solving the Puzzle of Distant Starlight in a Young Universe*, Master Books, 2006)

Let's rephrase the question a little bit. Is there a model for how the universe began that is consistent with the Biblical record, does not break any known laws of physics or mathematics, and is consistent with our current observational measurements of the dimensions and behavior of the universe, including starlight from stars located as far away as 15 billion light-years? The answer is, "yes". Before we get into discussing that model there are a few things we need to understand. First, no one was present to observe the beginning of the universe. Therefore, a complete description of the beginnings of the universe is outside the capabilities of observational science. In addition, the Biblical record provides some information about the beginnings of the universe but it does not provide a detailed description. As a result neither the atheist nor the Christian is able to state with certainty exactly how the universe began in the detail that some would like. What we can do is propose various models to describe our speculative ideas on how the universe might have begun.

In the world of physics you can have as many models as there are physicists to imagine them but these models have to follow certain rules. The most important rule is that the model must not break any known laws of mathematics. In fact, the models that theoretical physicists come up with are a set of mathematical equations that describe their idea or model (the model should have the ability to accurately predict an outcome given certain inputs). Experimental physicists examine the equations to understand the implications of the model. They then design experiments that could generate evidence that either supports or refutes the model or its implications. If the data generated by the experiment refutes the model, the model is then modified to accommodate the new data or the model is considered irrelevant and is discarded. If the experimental evidence is consistent with the model or its implications then the model is allowed to "live another day". Notice I did not say the model is proven to be true - its not. Some parts of the model could still be wrong. We don't know. All we know is the experiment we ran generated data that is consistent with the model. Therefore, the model may be fully correct, partially correct, or may just have the appearance of being correct for now. We don't really know.

There is the possibility that the model is mostly correct but that another model will be shown to be "more correct" in the future. An example of this are the models describing gravity. Newton's equations of gravitation do an excellent job of predicting the observational effects of gravity and are still in use today. Does that mean Newton's model has been proven to be true? No. In fact, Albert Einstein showed, in 1915, that Newton's model for gravity worked very well for most of the gravitational fields we are used to but that Newton's model had large errors in it as gravitational fields became very strong. Einstein then went on to create a new set of equations describing the behavior of gravity that completely agrees with Newton's model for modest gravitational fields but, unlike Newton's model, Einstein's model is also accurate up to gravitational fields of extreme magnitude such as that at the event horizon of a Black Hole. So, Newton's model is known to be partially correct and partially incorrect, but still extremely useful (this is why statistician George E. P. Box famously wrote that "*essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful*"). Does that mean that Einstein's model is known to be fully correct? No. All we know is Newton's model was very good but not as good as Einstein's model and perhaps someday, we will find another model (set of equations) that is even more correct than Einstein's!

OK, let's start with some observational science (yay!). Early in the 20th century Edwin Hubble (an atheist) made a series of astronomical observations and measurements that overwhelmingly indicated that the Earth appears to be located at the center of the universe! The observations were: **Uniform Distribution of Stars** - As we look around us in all directions as deep as possible (now even as deep as 15 billion light years) we notice that stars and galaxies appear to be evenly distributed around us in all directions. There are local areas of variation but when you average over large volumes of space the distribution of stars and galaxies is unexpectedly even or uniform. This seems to indicate that the Earth is within no more than a million light years of being at the center of the universe (our instruments are only good enough to tell that we are somewhere within 1 million light-years of the center of the universe). If we were close to the edge of the universe we would expect to see part of the sky densely filled with stars and galaxies and part of the sky almost empty – but that's not the case. **Red-Shift Measurements** - Einstein's special theory of relativity says that objects moving away from us will have the frequency of the light they emit shifted to longer or "redder" wavelengths and objects moving toward us will have the frequency of the light they emit shifted to shorter or "bluer" wavelengths. (Although the physics is not the same we can think of it as being similar to how a train with its whistle blowing or a car with its horn blowing sounds higher in pitch as it approaches you and lower in pitch as it passes you and speeds away). Shortly after the theory of special relativity was published, Edwin Hubble became the first to measure these frequency shifts of other galaxies in the universe and found that most galaxies are red-shifted (they are moving away from us). The Hubble Law says that the farther away an object is from the Earth the more "red-shifted" the frequency of its light is. Hubble also discovered that if we backtrack the paths that the galaxies appear to be moving away on, they all point to one place where the universe began. That place appears to be our location! The result of Hubble's measurements is that the Earth appears to be located at the place where the universe began – at least within 1 million light years of the center of the universe.

OK, now let's stop for a moment and bring in some philosophical science (boo!). The prevailing scientific dogma or ideology (strongly held beliefs) is that there is no god and that everything that happens in the universe happens because of dumb luck (what scientists call "random chance"), not intentional design. Remember, there is no evidence to support these assertions (**Colossians 2:8-9**).

The first question we need to look at is, “if the Earth is located at the center of the universe could it have happened just by pure dumb luck (random chance)?” We can calculate this probability if we know the total volume of the universe (radius = 15 billion light-years) compared to the volume of a sphere with a radius of a million light-years (our instrument error).

As all you Algebra students know the equation for the enclosed volume of a sphere is: $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

So, the volume of the observable universe in cubic light years is = $1.33 \times 3.14 \times 15 \times 15 \times 15 \times 10^{27} = 1.4 \times 10^{34}$. The volume of a sphere within a million light years of the universe’s center in cubic light years is = $1.33 \times 3.14 \times 1 \times 1 \times 1 \times 10^{18} = 4.2 \times 10^{18}$. So, the probability that the Earth would be at the universe’s center by random chance is = $4.2 \times 10^{18} / 1.4 \times 10^{34}$ or, 1 chance out of 3×10^{16} which is: **1 chance out of 30 million billion!** (1 out of 30,000,000,000,000,000). Both Christians and atheists agree that this number is so small it is effectively zero. In other words:

It is impossible for the Earth to be located this close to the center of the universe based on pure dumb luck!

Genesis 1:1-2 says that the location of the creation event was Earth. Therefore, we would expect the Earth to still be located relatively close to the center of the universe today. Hubble’s measurements confirm that the Earth is at the center of the universe – so us Christians – we’re in good shape. But the atheists have a serious problem. Their observations and their philosophy directly conflict with each other. Their measurements say we are at the center of the universe but their philosophy says that we can’t be. At this point atheists have a choice: 1) Believe there is a God and the starting point of creation was the Earth as stated in the Bible or 2) They can look for some way to explain how we appear to be at the center of the universe but we really are not. Science chose # 2. Science decided to try to create a mathematical model that would allow observations from the Earth to indicate Earth was at the center of the universe, but not be, both at the same time. That is how they came up with the Big Bang model. The Big Bang is not what you think. Most people think it is an explosion and expansion of matter from a single point in 3 dimensional space – this is not true.

The Big Bang model was proposed in 1922 by the Russian mathematician and meteorologist Alexander Friedmann to explain how the Earth can appear to be at the center of the universe, but not be. Friedmann asserted (to insist without evidence) that for such a model to work it must be true that every location in the universe would appear that it was the center of the universe if Hubble’s measurements were taken from those locations, yet none of the locations would actually be the center of the universe. In other words, “the Earth cannot be in a special place”. The assertion that the Earth is not in a special place even has a name – its called the “Cosmological Principle,” or more recently, the “Copernican Principle”.

Quote from Edwin Hubble after finding his measurements indicated Earth is at the center of universe:

“Such a condition would imply that we occupy a unique position in the universe... But the unwelcome supposition of a favored location must be avoided at all costs....Such a favored position, of course, is intolerable.”

(Hubble, E.P., *The Observational Approach to Cosmology*, pp. 50–59, Clarendon, Oxford, 1937.)

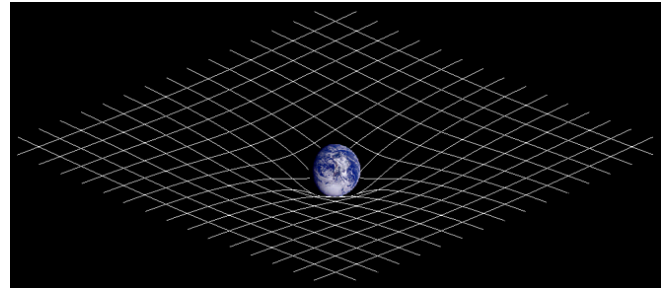
Quote from George Ellis, South African cosmologist, October 1995 issue of Scientific American:

“People need to be aware that there is a range of models that could explain the observations. For instance, I can construct for you a spherically symmetrical universe with the Earth at its center, and you cannot disprove it based on observations. You can only exclude it on philosophical grounds. In my view there is absolutely nothing wrong in that. What I want to bring into the open is the fact that we are using philosophical criteria in choosing our models. A lot of cosmology tries to hide that.” (W. Wayt Gibbs, “Profile: George F. R. Ellis,” *Scientific American*, October 1995, Vol. 273, No.4, p. 55.)

Friedmann was able to construct a mathematical model that met these requirements without violating the equations of General Relativity. In order to get the model (i.e. the Big Bang) to work he asserted that space must have a 4th dimension we can’t detect. We, of course, live in 3-dimensional space (height, length, and width) and are not able to detect a 4th dimension. In the ‘closed’ big bang (most favored version), the 3-dimensional space we can see is merely the surface of a 4-dimensional ‘balloon’ expanding out into a ‘hyperspace’ of 4 dimensions (none of these dimensions is time). They picture the galaxies like buttons all over the surface of a balloon. No galaxies would be inside the balloon. As the expansion proceeds, the rubber (representing the ‘fabric’ of space) stretches outward. This spreads the buttons apart. From the viewpoint of each button, the others move away from it, but no button can claim to be the center of the expansion. On the surface of the balloon, there is no center. The center of the expansion would be in the air inside the balloon, which represents undetectable ‘hyperspace’. Here’s another way to look at the concept. If you could travel really fast in a straight line in any direction, they claim you would never encounter any large volume of space unpopulated with galaxies and you would end up right back at the place you started from. You would not be able to define an ‘edge’ or boundary around all the galaxies, and so you could not define a geometric center. You’d be like a bug walking on the surface of the balloon – if you walked in a straight line long enough you would end up back where you started. You will occasionally hear scientists (or a PBS commercial) say that “the universe has no center and no edge” as if it was fact. But these are just assertions that result from believing in the Big Bang model. Why do people want to believe in a fourth dimension of space they cannot detect instead of believing in God? Because a fourth dimension of space is not going to judge you and send you to Hell – but God might (**Romans 1:18-23**).

The Big Bang is a complicated idea that requires the existence of a 4th dimension of space that we can't detect. It allows atheists to not have to believe in a God who put us intentionally at the center of the universe as the Bible says He did and as Hubble's measurements indicate. But the Big Bang model has implications that create really big problems. You see, a universe with no edge and no center also has no gravitational gradient. Mass would be evenly distributed in all directions (on the balloon) and so the gravitational effects of all that mass averaged over the entire universe cancel out resulting in no significant gravitational slope or gradient. But according to General Relativity, if there is no gravitational gradient then there is also no gravitational time dilation and gravitational time dilation is the key to understanding the starlight problem.

Unlike the Big Bang, General Relativity has been experimentally demonstrated and verified many times over the last century. In 1915 Einstein published a paper titled, "The Field Equations of Gravitation" which introduced General Relativity. In General Relativity, Einstein showed that gravitational fields distort time and space, massive gravitational fields massively distort time and space, and at the event horizon of a Black Hole (the most powerful gravitational field that we can observe) time comes to a complete stop!



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spacetime>

The equations of general relativity are similar in form to equations describing the deformation of a rubber sheet when heavy balls are placed on it. The rubber sheet represents the fabric of what Einstein called "spacetime". The rubber sheet is a 2 dimensional analogy to the 3 dimensional effect of mass on spacetime. Einstein concluded that gravity was not so much the attraction of massive bodies as it was the distortion of space and time caused by mass. In other words, the presence of mass distorts space & time, and distortions of space & time affect the motion of masses.

In 1869 astronomers were measuring the orbits of the planets and comparing them to the orbits predicted by Newton's equations of gravitation, developed in the 1600's. What they found was that all the planets known at the time, except for one, had orbits that were perfectly predicted by Newton's equations. However, a tiny precession observed in Mercury's orbit was not predicted by Newton's equations. General Relativity not only exactly predicted the orbits of all the other planets but also exactly predicted Mercury's orbit as well. Because Mercury is very close to a massive object (the Sun), the distortion of space near the Sun was large enough that it showed up in Mercury's orbit. A solar eclipse also provided an opportunity to verify General Relativity. As the moon passed in front of the Sun and blocked its light, measurements were taken of the starlight from stars located behind the edge of the Sun. General Relativity predicted the light would be bent about twice as much as predicted by Newton's equations and General Relativity was found to be correct.

According to General Relativity clocks at a low altitude should tick more slowly than clocks at a high altitude and observations confirm this effect, called *gravitational time dilation*. Atomic clocks are accurate to about one microsecond per year (a millionth of one second). According to General Relativity if two identical atomic clocks were located in different gravitational fields you should be able to see the difference in time in the clocks. There happens to be such a situation with an atomic clock in Greenwich, England and an identical one in Boulder, Colorado. The one in England is located at sea level and the one in Colorado is located about a mile above sea level. Since the Earth's gravitational field gets weaker the higher above sea level you are, we would expect the clock in Colorado to tick along at a faster rate. General relativity predicts that the clock in Colorado will tick 5 microseconds faster per year than the one at sea level and that is exactly what is observed to happen. Many other experiments have also verified that gravitational time dilation, as predicted by General Relativity, is real. (W. Rindler, *Essential Relativity*, 1977, Revised Second Edition, Springer-Verlag, New York, p. 21). Its important to understand that not only clocks are affected. Time itself is moving at a different rate. For example, how fast you age, the decay rate of atomic nuclei, the speed of nerve impulses in your body, everything is experiencing time moving at a modified rate. Because of this, the effect of time slowing down is unnoticeable locally. It is only when you compare clocks in different gravitational fields that you can see a difference.

Black Holes

A black hole is a region of space whose gravitational force is so intense that nothing, not even light can escape. It is believed that black holes form from the collapse of stars. As long as they are emitting heat and light into space, stars are able to support themselves against their own gravity with the outward pressure generated by heat from nuclear reactions deep in their interiors (**1 Corinthians 15:40-41**). According to General Relativity if a star having a mass greater than about 3 times the mass of our Sun burns out, the star will collapse and form a Black Hole. The size of the black hole is proportional to the mass of the star; a Black Hole with a mass of 3 solar masses would end up with a diameter of about 10 miles. The possibility that stars could collapse to Black Holes was first realized by J. Robert Oppenheimer and Hartland Snyder in 1939, who were manipulating the equations of General Relativity. The first real black hole discovered was Cygnus X-1, 7,000 light-years from Earth. At a certain distance from the center of the black hole gravity is just strong enough to keep a light beam from escaping. This distance is called the Event Horizon. At the event horizon time & space are both massively distorted. To an observer far away from the Black Hole, time appears to stop at the event horizon.

The following discussion is based on the White Hole Cosmology developed by D. Russell Humphreys

In his book *A Brief History of Time* (Bantam Books, 1988, p. 87), Stephen Hawking tells the story of an imaginary astronaut, falling toward the event horizon of a Black Hole: “The astronaut is scheduled to reach the event horizon at 12:00 noon, as measured by his watch. As he falls toward it, a dark sphere blocking off the starry background, an astronomer watching him from far away sees that the astronaut’s watch is ticking slower and slower. By the astronomer’s wall clock, it takes an hour for the astronaut’s watch to go from 11:57 am to 11:58. And then a *day* to reach 11:59! The astronomer never does see the astronaut’s watch reach 12:00. Instead, he sees the motionless images of the astronaut and his watch getting redder and dimmer, finally fading from view completely.” From the viewpoint of the astronaut looking back at the astronomer the astronomer would appear to be experiencing time moving faster and faster. As the astronaut fell closer and closer toward the event horizon of the Black Hole he would see the astronomer moving faster and faster and the astronomer’s wall clock spinning faster and faster. As the astronaut crosses the event horizon exactly at 12:00 the astronomer and his clock are moving so fast they are just a blur. During the whole episode the astronaut feels normal and his watch ticks along at a normal rate. The point is, *time literally stands still at the event horizon* and near the event horizon time ticks along very slowly compared to locations far away from it.

If we took the known mass in the universe and put it into a volume about 1/50th of what it currently is, General Relativity says that the universe would be in one of only two possible states. It would either be inside a huge Black Hole or inside a huge White Hole. In either case the Hole would have an event horizon at least one billion light-years in diameter. The diameter of an event horizon depends on the amount of matter inside it. For a Black Hole this means that as matter and energy enter the Black Hole the event horizon will move out farther and will increase. Matter and light can exist inside a Black Hole but General Relativity requires that they must fall inward. But the observational evidence indicates that the universe is expanding and is not currently falling inward. **Therefore, the universe cannot now be in a Black Hole.**

The other possibility allowed by General Relativity is that the universe was once in a White Hole (a Black Hole running in reverse). General Relativity allows for the existence of White Holes but does not require their existence. So far, we have not seen a White Hole in the real universe. However, if all the matter in the universe was put in a volume 50 times smaller than what we see today it would meet the requirements of a White Hole. Like a Black Hole, a White Hole would also have an event horizon. Matter and light would exist inside its event horizon but must expand outward. Since the diameter of an event horizon is proportional to the amount of matter inside it, the event horizon of a White Hole would shrink as matter passes through it and out of the White Hole. As matter continued to leave the White Hole the event horizon would collapse to nothing and disappear. There would be no more White Hole, just matter moving away from a central location which is what we observe today. The evidence indicates that the universe must have expanded out of a White Hole which no longer exists. **If you were standing on the earth as the event horizon arrived, distant objects in the universe would age billions of years in a single day of your time and there would be ample time for their light to reach you.**

A Possible Scenario Based On The Scriptures

Since the Bible was written for people living on Earth, the days that God refers to in Genesis 1 are days as experienced by clocks on the Earth. Below is a scenario developed by D. Russell Humphreys that attempts to put together the White Hole Cosmology and the Biblical account of creation. Since no people were there to observe creation it is speculative.

Day 1 (Genesis 1:1-5): All the mass of the universe is located together in the form of water. This ball of liquid water would be about 2 light-years in diameter. The laws of gravitation would not yet be in full effect. Such a ball of water would create a black hole with an event horizon at 500 million light-years away. **Day 2 (Genesis 1:6-8):** God begins stretching out space causing the ball of matter to expand rapidly – changing the black hole to a white hole. During Day 1 and 2 God Himself is the light source. **Day 3 (Genesis 1:9-13):** Dry land forms and plants are created. There are no stars yet. As the white hole sends out matter beyond the event horizon the event horizon rapidly collapses toward Earth. **Day 4 (Genesis 1:14-19):** The collapsing event horizon reaches Earth early on the 4th day. During this ordinary day, as measured on Earth, billions of years worth of physical processes take place in the distant cosmos, the stars and galaxies are formed and their light has plenty of time to reach the earth. The White Hole is now gone, massive gravitational time dilation ends, but the universe continues its expansion. **Day 5 (Genesis 1:20-23):** Fish, birds, and great sea monsters are created on Day 5. **Day 6 (Genesis 1:24-31):** Animals and people are created on Day 6. By the time Adam and Eve are able to look up at the sky all the stars and galaxies have been formed and are in their places.

God creating the universe from a White Hole is consistent with Hubble’s observations, the physics of General Relativity, and Genesis 1. The day by day description of creation based on a White Hole Cosmology is more fanciful since we have no observational experience with White Holes. None are known to exist today and, although General Relativity allows for their existence, perhaps the only one that ever existed was at the act of Creation and has since disappeared.

(Colossians 2:8-9, Romans 1:18-23, I Corinthians 15:40-41, Psalm 147:4, Isaiah 40:26, Job 22:12, Psalm 19:1 Psalm 33:6, Psalm 89:37, Exodus 20:11, Exodus 31:16-18, Genesis chapter 1)

For more information on this topic see, “Starlight And The God Of The Universe (aka Starlight in a 6,000 Year Old Universe)” at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why do boys pick on girls they like?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 6:20-26, Proverbs 5:18-20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Esther 2:7-8 & 17-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 19:11, Proverbs 11:22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: I've an acquaintance w/disability whose parents want me to be their best friend. What do I do?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 2:52, I Corinthians 13:11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Job 12:12, Proverbs 13:20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 5:12-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: I've an acquaintance w/disability whose parents want me to be their best friend. What do I do?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 20:35, Romans 15:1-3*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 12:22-26*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Galatians 1:10, Romans 12:16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Who is God?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Acts 9:1-5, John 12:44-45, John 5:39-40*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jeremiah 9:23-24, John 14:7-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 1:1-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: If the Israelites are God's chosen people, will they automatically go to heaven?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 3:19-20, Romans 6:23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:16, Romans 5:8-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Colossians 1:13-14, John 1:12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: If the Israelites are God's chosen people, will they automatically go to heaven?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:1-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 1:18-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 5:1, Galatians 3:11, Habakkuk 2:4, Galatians 3:23-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: If the Israelites are God's chosen people, will they automatically go to heaven?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans Chapter 4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 47:8, Psalm 22:28*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 11:1-4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: If the Israelites are God's chosen people, will they automatically go to heaven?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Ezekiel 36:22-28*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 12:1-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 15:7-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: If the Israelites are God's chosen people, will they automatically go to heaven?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 17:18-21, Genesis 35:10-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 11:25-29*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ezekiel 20:42-44, Zechariah 12:10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: If Jesus predestined Christians, did He predestine others as nonbelievers or was it their choice?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Timothy 2:1-6, John 6:35-40*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 10:8-16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 9:27-28, II Timothy 4:1-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: If Jesus predestined Christians, did He predestine others as nonbelievers or was it their choice?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 1:3-14, Romans 8:28-30*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 8:12-15, Exodus 4:21, Exodus 14:4 & 15-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 9:14-26*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Atheist says, "If the universe needs a cause, doesn't God need a cause? What's a good answer?"

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Colossians 2:8-9, II Timothy 2:23, II Corinthians 10:5, Acts 17:16-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians Chapter 2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 55:10-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Were Adam and Eve able to communicate with the animals?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 3:1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Numbers 22:21-35*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 8:13, Revelation 14:6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Ussher added up dates in Bible and found that Earth was created in 4004 BC. Was he right?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew Chapter 1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: How does Bible relate to creation science? Are there references to young earth creationism?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Colossians 2:8-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Job 40:15-24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Why can we see stars billions of light-years away?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 1:18-23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:40-41, Palm 33:6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 147:4, Isaiah 4:26*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: Why can we see stars billions of light-years away?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Job 22:12, Psalm 19:1, Psalm 89:37*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 20:11, Exodus 31:16-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?