

Evolution 101

Lesson 13

MORE EVIDENCE OF A YOUNG EARTH

CARBON-14 CLOCK

This clock is based on the production and disintegration of radio-active Carbon-14. Cosmic rays strike Nitrogen-14 atoms in the upper atmosphere to convert them into Carbon-14. Carbon-14 enters the food chain along with the nonradioactive Carbon-12.

When an organism dies, Carbon-14 (with a half-life of 5,730 years) dis-integrates back into Nitrogen-14. The relative abundance of Carbon-14 and Carbon-12 will produce an age for the specimen.

When the original measurements were made, it was found that the production of Carbon-14 was 20% greater than the rate of decay back into Nitrogen-14. This was disturbing because the figures showed that only 30,000 years would be required to achieve balance starting at zero. All scientists *knew*, of course, that the earth was billions of years old and attributed the 20% to experimental error and assumed that the system was in equilibrium.

Other investigators have found that the nonequilibrium is real and that it is 38% or more out of balance. This means, according to Robert Whitelaw, Professor at Virginia Polytechnic, that this clock should have begun approximately 8,000 years ago.

MOON DUST

Meteorite dust has been falling on the moon's surface supposedly for billions of years. It was feared that the astronauts' landing craft might sink into 50 to 60 feet of dust, so the landing craft was fitted with large pancake landing feet. The astronauts stepped on an inch, which indicated that the moon had been there for less than 10,000 years.

COMETS

Each time a comet orbits the sun a prodigious amount of mass is lost. Comets are small, averaging perhaps a kilometer in diameter. They cannot sustain many orbits before they disintegrate and disappear. Short period comets last for about 10,000 years. Multitudes of short-period comets in the heavens are witnesses that the solar system is young.

OIL GUSHERS

Often, when drilling for oil, a reservoir is tapped that is under such great pressure that it gushes out like a geyser. Studies of the permeability of the rocks surrounding the oil bed show that any pressure built up should be dissipated, bled off into surrounding rocks, within a few thousand years.

The excessive pressures found within oil beds, therefore, refutes the notion of their age being on the order of millions of years and argues for a youthful age (less than 10,000 years) of the rock formations and the entrapped oil.

Experiments have shown, also, that oil can be produced from garbage in a matter of hours showing that oil in the earth could have been made rapidly and recently. Noah's flood?

POPULATION GROWTH

Estimates of the total human population at the time of Christ center at about 300 million. If the Flood occurred about 5,000 B.C. and if the average length of a generation was forty years, Noah's family of eight people would multiply to 300 million by Christ's time if each family had an average of just 2.3 children. This corresponds to an average annual population increase of only 0.35 percent, whereas the present world population growth rate is about six times that, two percent.

If, on the other hand, the human race had been on earth for one million years with a growth rate of only a trivial 0.01 percent annually, the resulting population would be 2×10^{43} people. This is enough people to fill completely

more than a thousand solar systems solidly packed. Thus the theory that the human race has been multiplying for a million years or so seems absurd.

THE SUN IS A VACUUM CLEANER

The sun's gravitational field acts as a giant vacuum cleaner that sweeps up about 100,000 tons of micrometeoroids per day. If the solar system were older than 10,000 years, no micrometeoroids should remain near the center of the solar system since there is no significant source of replenishment. A large disk-shaped cloud of these particles is orbiting the sun. Conclusion: The solar system is less than 10,000 years old.

SUN HAS A RADIANT FORCE

The sun's radiation applies an out-ward force on very small particles orbiting the sun. Particles less than 100,000th of a centimeter in diameter should have been blown out of the solar system if the solar system were billions of years old. These particles are still orbiting the sun. Conclusion: the solar system is young.

THE EARTH IS YOUNG

Using uniformitarian assumptions of (1) zero initial "daughter" component, (2) closed system and (3) uniform rate, there are only three or so "clocks" that give a reading of billions of years for earth. Using the same assumptions, the research shows at least forty or so "clocks" that give a reading from only a few thousand to one million years of age for the earth. All are questionable but it seems reasonable to suspect greater error in extrapolating present measurements over billions of years rather than thousands.

While only a few radiometric dating techniques give an age of billions of years for our solar system, even this amount of time is not enough for spontaneous generation. We have already learned that the probability of lifeless chemicals causing a protein by chance over time is less than 1 in 10^{520} . And one protein is only the beginning of a very long trip.

It is useful to quote again from the noted philosopher, René Descarte, "***It is truth very certain that, when it is not in our power to determine what is true, we ought to follow what is most probable.***"

Christians may rightfully distrust all of the derived ages based on uniformitarian assumptions. And there is no need for Christians to concede that the Bible can allow for long ages for the earth just because the evolutionist "needs" them. Bishop Usher was much closer than Carl Sagan and his "***billions and billions of years***" for the age of the universe.