

# Theistic Evolution – Attack On Faith (I)

# Hb.11:1-3, 6

1. God requires faith.
2. Faith takes Him at His word (Ro.10:17)
3. No wonder satan hinders faith (Ep.6:16)
4. Modern unbelief attacks faith in two ways
  - a. **Indirect**: seminaries
  - b. **Direct**:
    - 1) Books – dictionaries, commentaries.
    - 2) Education; Media; Churches.

# John Ankerberg: progressive creation

## TV series:

- *Are the Genesis Creation Days 24 Hours or Long Periods of Time?*
- *What is the Meaning of the Word “Day” (yôm) in Gen.1 - 2?*
- *From Scripture, How Can You Tell Whether the Day-Age View, the 24 -Hours View, or the Frame-work View is Correct?*

# John Ankerberg: progressive creation

- **Hugh Ross:** scientific methods indicate universe is 13.7 billions years old
- **John A:** if science is telling us this, we need to go to Scripture to figure out the literal meaning of the word *day* regarding the creation days of Genesis
- **Walter Kaiser:** Hebrew proves Bible agrees with latest conclusions of science

# I. Inherent Authority Of Scripture

This: scientific theory, by its very nature  
and the breadth of its acceptance, has  
priority over Scripture . . . ?

. . . Or This: Scripture: product of divine  
revelation, inspired, has authority not  
found in 'book of nature'?

- Therefore Scripture can assist in  
interpretation of science.
  - John A. has it exactly backwards
  - Jesus was there – Jn.1:1-3

Scripture cannot be forced into a mold to accommodate interpretations of science, sociology, history, etc.

- Scripture's authority resides in itself – based on revelation, grounded in inspiration
- John A. assumes current 'science' should determine our belief; Scripture should conform to 'science.'

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, *I said, You are gods?*    <sup>35</sup> If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)... – John 10:34-35

# Gn.1-2 ... a wax nose?

- Karl Barth: 'saga'
- S. H. Hooke: 'cultic liturgy'
- Gordon Wenham: 'hymn'
- Walter Brueggemann: 'poem'
- Claus Westermann: 'narrative'
- John Stek: 'metaphorical narration'
- Gerhard von Rad: 'doctrine'
- Others: myth, parable, story, allegory



# Gn.1-2 ... observations

- Obvious consensus: there is no consensus
- Secularists feel free to interpret Gn.1-2 figuratively
  - Interpret ‘Days’ of creation in literal and grammatical way – don’t care if Bible contradicts itself or not. (Cf. Ac.2)
- Evangelicals do care: yet must make Gn.1 accommodate claims of modern science.

‘From a **superficial** reading of Genesis 1, the **impression** would **seem** to be that the entire creative process took place in **six twenty-four-hour days**. If this was the true intent of the Hebrew author ... this ***seems to run counter to modern scientific research***, which indicates that the planet Earth was created several billion years ago...’ –Archer, *Survey of OT Intro.*, 187.

‘From a **superficial** reading of the NT, it would **seem** to be that the entire resurrection process of Jesus took place **three days** after His death. If this was the true intent of the NT writers ... this ***seems to run counter to modern scientific research***, which indicates that dead people stay dead – it has always been this way – the dead will always will be dead’ -Modernism: WhyNot?

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- Modern science: dead people stay dead.
- 1 Co.15: believe resurrection of Jesus? Why?
- Gn.2:15-17, 20, 23 – see Adam on day six...

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Hebrew author ...

*modern scientific*

that the planet Earth

billion years ago...

Modern science cannot  
account for such things.

God is not deceptive; He  
tells us what He did.

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## Deut.13:3-4

- God gave priority to Scripture, not to observable signs (e.g.: science).
  - 1 Co.11:19; 2 Th.2:10-12; 1 Tim.6:20-21
    - “*falsely called*” (pseudonym)
  - 2 Pt.3:1-9
    - Uniformitarianism does not disprove God’s promises, despite assertions of scientists

I. Inherent Authority Of Scripture

II. Kaiser And “Day”

# Kaiser

## “Day” (Gen.1; 2:4)

1. Twelve hours (daylight), Gen.1:5.
2. Twenty-four hours (day / night), Gen.1:14.
3. Long period of time (entire creation “week”), Gen.2:4.



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### Contrast –

1. Commentaries: Wenham; Barr; Stek
2. Lexicon: Gesenius
3. Dictionaries: TDOT; Jenni

Kaiser

“Day” (Gen.1; 2:4)

Gordon Wenham...

“There can be little doubt that here ‘day’ has its basic sense of a 24-hour period.”

# Kaiser

“Day” (Gen.1; 2:4)

James Barr...

“So far as I know there is no professor of Hebrew or OT at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Gen.1-11 intended to convey to their readers the ideas that (a) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience.”

# Kaiser

## “Day” (Gen.1; 2:4)

John Stek...

“each day of creation has to be the same since the ‘evening and morning’ time expression and the numeral is in each instance identical. In other words, each creation ‘day’ is of equal length. It is not defensible to argue that the first three ‘days’ were long periods of time while the remaining ‘days’ were 24-hour days.”

# Kaiser

“Day” (Gen.1; 2:4)

Lexicon: Gesenius...

*“at that time in which, i.e., when. Gen.2:4  
“when Jehovah God had made the earth  
and the heaven;” 3:5; Exod.10:28...”*

# Kaiser

“Day” (Gen.1; 2:4)

Dictionaries: TDOT, Magne Saeboe...

“day in Gn.1 has a literal meaning in the sense of ‘a full day.’”

# Kaiser

## “Day” (Gen.1; 2:4)

Theological Lexicon of OT: Ernst Jenni...

“day in Genesis creation is to be understood in its literal meaning as a ‘day of 24 hours in the sense of an astronomical or calendrical unit of time’ – 1:709.

I. Inherent Authority Of Scripture

II. Kaiser and "Day"

III. Kaiser And Archer:  
The Sixth Day



## The claim:

6<sup>th</sup> day could not have been 24 hours

1. God created every kind of animal...
2. God created Adam
3. God created Garden of Eden
4. God commanded Adam to care for it
5. Adam named some land animals and birds.
6. God realized that Adam was alone.
7. God put Adam to sleep.
8. God made Eve.
9. Adam met Eve, said a short romantic poem.

The answer:

God created universe in one sentence.

What's the problem?

Jer.32:17 – ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm! There is nothing is too hard for you.’

# 4. Command to care for garden is not same as Adam spending several years tending it.

# 5. Naming animals is their biggest problem

# Naming the animals

- Certain creatures were excluded [no mention of fish or creeping things]
- Text does not suggest how broad the categories were that Adam had to name.
- Did Adam have to study walking or talking?
- Adam and Eve were created on same day.

“...and there is no difficulty in this, since it would not have required much time to bring the animals to Adam to see what he would call them, as the animals of paradise are all we have to think of” – Keil-Delitzsch (1:87)

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- # 4. Command to care for garden is not same as Adam spending several years tending it.
- # 5. Naming animals is their biggest problem
- # 9. They imply Adam had been lonely bachelor for long time... Pure assumption.

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- If Adam's work on sixth day took such a long time to finish, and a day is an eon . . .
  - Why is Adam only 930 years old at time of his death (5:5)??

## Conclusion: Kaiser appeals to Ps.90:4

- Passage is not trying to govern usage of a word in Gn.1
- Purpose: God is not limited by time (as 2 Pt.3:8)
  - If 'day' is a year, what does 'year' mean?
- God can do 1000 years of work in a day
  - Gn.18:14; Lk.1:34-37

# Logical conclusion to John A. et al.:

## Rudolph Bultmann

‘It is impossible to use electric light and the wireless and to avail ourselves of modern medical and surgical discoveries, and at the same time to believe in the NT world of spirits and miracles. We may think we can manage it in our own lives, but to expect others to do so is to make the Christian faith unintelligible and unacceptable to the modern world’

– NT and Mythology.

# Logical response to John A. et al.:

## Edward J. Young

“Whenever ‘science’ and the Bible are in conflict, it is always the Bible that, in one manner or another, must give way. We are not told that ‘science’ should correct its answers in the light of Scripture. Always it is the other way round. Yet this is really surprising, for the answers which scientists have provided have frequently changed with the passing of time” – Edward J. Young, *Studies...*, p.53.