

Old Testament Survey

Genesis

General Outline of Genesis

- I. The Beginning of Mankind - Genesis 1:1-11:32
- II. The Life of Abraham - Genesis 12:1-25:18
- III. The Life of Isaac - Genesis 25:16-26:35
- IV. The Life of Jacob - Genesis 17:1-37:1
- V. The Life of Joseph - Genesis 37:2-50:26

Genesis 1 and Creation

“Proofs” For The Extreme Age of the Earth

1. Sedimentation would indicate an age of at least 100,000 years (assuming a uniformitarian paradigm).
2. The existence in the fossil record of animals no longer living would lead one to assume a great age for the earth.
3. Evidence from nuclear decay would point to an age of from somewhere between 4 and 4.5 billion years.

Yom in Genesis 1

1. *Yom* represents a literal 24-hour day, hence the world was created in six 24-hour days.
2. *Yom* represents a revelational day. In other words, Moses was shown the order of creation in six days of his time.
3. *Yom* represents a geological age or stage in the creative process.

Arguments For a Literal 24-Hour Day In Response to Archer

1. In the description of each of the six days we have the phrase “evening and morning”. The actual Hebrew construction of this phrase is “And the evening took place, and the morning took place, day one”.
2. If we assert that God is omnipotent, something that even Dr. Archer would agree with, then why would God need eons of time to create the world? This would be like a man building a house by pounding in one nail a day for twenty years!
3. Third, and this correlates to our previous arguments, the text of Genesis 1 implies instant creation. For example, for the first day the text says “Exist, light! and light existed.” The construct of this sentence certainly does not seem to indicate that it took God millions of years to create light!
4. We find that the plant kingdom was created on the third day while the sun was created on the fourth day. To adhere to the Day-Age theory would imply that the plant kingdom existed without the light of the sun for millions of years!

5. It has been established that whenever a number is connected to the word *yom* in the Old Testament, it always refers to a twenty-four hour day
6. In Exodus 20:8-11, we read, *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”* It is undeniably clear that the first use of the term “six days” is to be taken as literal. Israel was not to work “six ages” then rest a seventh. God gives the reason for this, namely that He created the earth in six days and rested the seventh. It should be obvious that He did not mean “six ages”, but instead meant “six literal days”.
7. If we accept the assertion that Adam was created in the sixth age, then he lived through the seventh age (the age of Sabbath rest), and was expelled from the garden of Eden sometime in the eighth age. Just how long were these ages? The only way around this problem is to assume that each of the ages varied in length from millions of years to maybe only a few, or to assert that there are no ages at all involved but merely twenty-four hour days.
8. There is no reason we must demand that creation took place in six ages of time. We have a infinite God who has unlimited power. We find in Revelation 21:1 that God creates a new heaven and a new earth. Does He take millions of years while we all hang around in the New Jerusalem? Does God take millions of years to dissolve the current creation or does He do it in an instant in time as we read in 2 Peter 3:10-13?

Genesis 1 and Evolution - Problems and Issues

1. The science of genetics shows that for every positive mutation there are millions of negative mutations. Thus, from a study of probability alone, natural selection is not a tenable theory.
2. No mutation to date has ever brought into existence a new trait or structure but merely adaptations of existing traits and structures.
3. “Ontogeny capitulates Phylogeny” has proved to be fallacious and naive.
4. Evolution cannot explain adaptations with no transitional stages. For examples, it always appears as though ants and termites lived in colonies. Where are the transitional forms.
5. The evolutionary schema is full of missing links between every major life form.
6. Emergent Evolution, or Quantum Evolution is an attempt to salvage the religion of evolution, but, as the other theories of evolution, is probabaltistically impossible to believe unless one denies the existence of a creator.

The Antiquity Of The Human Race

1. Modern science postulates the existence of multiple “ancient” fossils of various men, e.g. Neanderthal, Java, etc., but none of these exist as a complete skeleton and in fact, their existence is mere speculation.
2. Archer himself seems to accept the antiquity of humanity as a given, thus making some of these fossilized “men” pre-creation men who lived prior to Adam.

3. Others (like Clarence Larken) accept the "Gap" Theory in which they place these pre-Adamite men. Some even postulate that the demons are the souls of these pre-Adamite proto-humans.

So What About The Early Genesis Genealogy?

1. They could represent an unbroken genealogy which would put the age of the human race somewhere around 6,000 years (4004 according to Usher).
2. They could represent only the most prominent members of the genealogy, thus producing missing "links" in the chain. This would put the age of the human race at somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000 years depending on the number of missing links.
3. The names could represent an individual and his primogeniture, making a period of 8,227 years between Adam and the flood.

The Gap Theory Visited

Defined

1. A "gap" of perhaps millions or even billions of years exist between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.
2. Some "catastrophe", perhaps the fall of Satan, made the earth *tohu wa bohu*, without form and void.
3. During this gap of time, the entire fossil record was created. Pre-Adamite "ape" men lived and died, as well as all of the dinosaurs.
4. God re-formed the earth when he created Adam from pre-existing material. It was essentially a re-creation, not a creation.

Critiqued

1. There is no evidence in the Bible, other than that which is read into the lines between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 which would hint at the existence of pre-Adamite men.
2. There is no evidence in the Bible that Satan's fall is that which caused the earth to be formless and void.
3. The fossil record, which is used to "prove" the Gap Theory, is much more easily explained in terms of a world-wide flood than the existence of a pre-Adamite earth filled with life.
4. The Gap Theory does not explain the creation order adequately. How could plants and men exist without a sun, moon, or stars?

The Flood

Critical Objections to a Universal Flood

1. To cover the highest mountains on earth, approximately eight times the amount of water currently present on the earth would be required.

This assumes that the topology of the ante-deluvian earth was the same as that today.

2. Where did all of the water drain to?

Again, this assumes that the topology of the earth pre- and post-flood is the same.

3. It is highly improbable that plant life could have survived submerged in salt water for over a year.

What about seeds or floating biomasses of plants?

4. Certain parts of the earth do not show any evidence of submersion.

This does not disprove a universal flood.

Evidences For a Universal Flood

1. Ossiferous fissures in both hemispheres point to a universal, catastrophic flood which would have easily deposited the bones.
2. God's purpose was to destroy all life on the earth, something that would not have been possible in a local flood.
3. Peter says in 2 Peter 2:5 that the flood destroyed all humanity except Noah. This would point to a universal flood.
4. Oral and written traditions the world over point to a universal flood.
5. The size of the ark would have been more than sufficient to save two of every land-dwelling animal with room left over for fodder and provisions.

The Tower of Babel

1. Evidence exists from Sumerian ruins that a ziggurat being built so displeased the Gods that in a night they threw down what men built and scattered them abroad with strange speech.
2. Throughout the world, the ancient Babylonian religion exists with the Babylonian deities taking on many names. This points to a common source.

The Life of Abraham

1. Calling in Ur of the Chaldees - The Abrahamic Covenant - Genesis 12:1-3.
2. Partial Obedience - Travels to Haran - Genesis 12:4
3. Arrival in Canaan - Genesis 12:5-9.
4. A Trip to Egypt - Genesis 12:10-20.
5. Separation from Lot - Genesis 13
6. Rescue of Lot - Meets Melchizedek - Genesis 14
7. The Ratification of the Abrahamic Covenant - Genesis 15
8. Hagar and Ishmael - Genesis 16
9. New Names and a New Start - Genesis 17

10. God Visits Abraham - The Destruction of Sodom - Genesis 18-19
11. Another Famine - Sojourn in Philistia - Genesis 20
12. Birth of Isaac - Genesis 21
13. Abraham's Test of Faith - Genesis 22
14. Death of Sarah - Genesis 23
15. The Marriage of Isaac - Genesis 24
16. His Marriage to Keturah - Death at 175 - Genesis 25:1-10

The Life of Isaac

1. A Submissive Son - Genesis 22:1-4
2. The Prepared Groom - Genesis 24:62-67
3. Prayer for Children - Genesis 25:29-26
4. Like Father, Like Son - Genesis 26:1-11
5. Cleaning Out the Wells - Genesis 26:17-33
6. A Frustrated Father - Genesis 27:1-45

The Life of Jacob

1. The Devious Brother - Genesis 25:27-34
2. The Deceitful Son - Genesis 27:6-29
3. The Dreaming Pilgrim - Genesis 28:10-22
4. Loverboy - Genesis 29:1-20
5. The Frustrated Husband - Genesis 29:21-30:24
6. The Conniving Employee - Genesis 30:25-31:55
7. The Wrestler - Genesis 32:1-33:20
8. The Angry Dad - Genesis 34:1-31; 35:22; 38:1-30
9. The Obedient Patriarch - Genesis 35:1
10. The Sad Saint - Genesis 35:16-20; 37:31-35
11. The Prophet - Genesis 49:1-33

The Life of Joseph

1. The Favored Son - Genesis 37
2. The Faithful Servant - Genesis 39

3. The Forgotten Slave - Genesis 40
4. The Famed Leader - Genesis 41-44
5. The Forgiving Brother - Genesis 45-48
6. The Fruitful Shade Tree - Genesis 49-50