

What About The Age Of The Earth?

(Is Seven Days The Only Way?)

Resources Used for This Topic Include:

John Sailhamer: **Genesis Unbound**

John Lennox: **Seven Days That Divide The World**

Theodore J. Cabal and Peter J. Razor II: **Controversy of the Ages: Why Christians Should NOT Divide Over the Age of the Earth.**

J. Daryl Charles, editor: **Reading Genesis 1-2: An Evangelical Conversation**

Lloyd Anderson: **Mt. St. Helens: A Big Bang for Creation! DVD**

Let me make something very clear ...

I am a _____, not a _____

I approach this topic _____, not _____.

Ken Hamm is wrong when he asserts that YEC is a _____ issue.

Cabal and Razor wrote: **"The Gospel is not the story of Jesus _____ my favorite doctrine."**

It's not a question of "do you believe the Bible" but "how do you _____ what the Bible is trying to tell us?"

Did you know there is a giant bushel basket of strong Bible teachers who _____ hold to the YEC viewpoint?

The spectrum of variants regarding this topic run on a continuum.

1. **The 24 hour view**
2. **The day-age view**
3. **The framework view**

Kevin Vanhoozer, a strong Evangelical scholar wrote: *"It's worth noting that many members of ETS (Evangelical Theological Society) affirm the Chicago Statement of Biblical Inspiration (on inerrancy) but not a literal seven days of Creation. There are other ways for words to correspond to reality than literalistically."* (5 Views on Inerrancy)

Michael Bird, another strong Evangelical scholar who upholds the absolute truth and infallibility of the Bible wrote: *"For many biblical interpreters, Genesis 1-3 is not a blow-by-blow literal account of creation as much as it is about establishing a monotheistic worldview of God as Creator in the context of competing creation accounts in the polytheistic environment of the ancient Near East. No conflict with science exists about origins, because Genesis 1-3 is not intended as a scientific account of Creation."* (5 Views on Inerrancy)

Today Evangelicals have taken 4 different views of the Creation, Evolution debate:

- + **ANSWERS IN GENESIS**: YEC with people like Henry Morris and Ken Hamm
- + **REASONS TO BELIEVE**: Old Earth Creationism (please notice the term here—you DON'T have to believe in evolution to believe in an OLD EARTH. (Did you get that????)). Hugh Ross
- + **BIOLOGOS: EVOLUTIONARY CREATIONISM**---Francis Collins and
- + **INTELLIGENT DESIGN: ANTI-EVOLUTIONISM WITHOUT THEOLOGY**; Phillip Johnson
- + Sailhamer calls his view "_____ Creationism".
It understands Genesis 1 and 2 to be a _____ and _____ account of God's creation of the universe.
 - God created out of _____.
 - There are not "_____" in the creation account of Genesis 1.
 - The "beginning" was not a _____ in time, but a _____ of time.
- + **In the Bible the term "reshit" Beginning, ALWAYS refers to an _____, yet _____ period of time—not a specific _____.**
- + In Genesis 1, the period that follows "the beginning" is a single, seven-day _____, which itself is followed by a vast _____ of humanity.
- + The word eretz is often translated "earth". _____ is a better translation.
- + "Formless and Void" tohu wabohu Genesis 1:2. The phrase means more "_____" and "wilderness" in the Hebrew. Like in Deut 32:10)

- + The first two chapter of Genesis were NOT meant to be read in _____ from the rest of the Pentateuch!!!
- + Sailhamer: “The author of Genesis 1 want to show that the stretch of land which God promised to give Israel in the Sinai Covenant—the land where Abraham and his family sojourned, the land of Canaan—was the same land God had prepared for them at the time of creation. It was in THAT land that God first blessed mankind and called upon men and women to obey him.
- + It was in THAT land that the Tree of Life once grew and God provided for man’s great good and kept him from evil. In the narrative of Genesis 1, we are thus given an account of God’s original purposes with humanity.”
- + That week, as far as we can gather from the text itself, was a _____ week of 6-24 hour days and a 7th day in which God rested.
- + Then there is the issue of the word “_____.” Just in Genesis 1:1-2:4 his has several meanings:
 - It first occurs in 1:5. “God called the light DAY and the darkness he called night.” The natural reading of this text is not 24 hours, but “_____” (roughly 12 hours) vs. “_____” (another 12 hours).
 - The second use is again in Genesis 1:5 where God calls evening and morning “day one.” This would naturally be understood to be a _____ period.
 - The next occurrence is on the seventh day when God rested. There is no mention of evening or morning here. Is the 7th “day” _____ in time from the other six?
 - Finally, 2:4 says “in the day God made the heavens and the earth.” Clearly, here, “day” means _____ than 24 hours.
- + There was _____ before the fall—Here’s the difference—there as not _____ death before the fall.

Let me summarize what I believe about Creation:

✓ God _____

- ✓ God created ex nihilo (out of _____)
- ✓ God is _____ than his creation
- ✓ God is the _____ creator (He has always been)
- ✓ God is _____
- ✓ God desires _____
- ✓ Genesis 1:1 tells us about the “beginning.” And no matter what you and I want—it just _____ tell us how long between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2
- ✓ Genesis 1:2 and following could very well be a _____ week
- ✓ We cannot read Genesis 1 and 2 WITHOUT CONSIDERING ITS _____ WITH THE REST OF THE PENTATEUCH.
- ✓ I certainly believe 7 days is _____, but it’s not _____.
- ✓ If it was millions or billions of years, I don’t believe it affects the _____, infallibility, _____ of the Bible in the least.
- ✓ I am _____ when Christians shun, mock, disfellowship other Christians who don’t agree with them on this issue.
- ✓ I do NOT see this as a _____. Saying if you don’t think 7 days is literal is like saying the resurrection never happened is silly. _____ WAS AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME BUT GOD—we have many _____ of the risen Jesus.
- ✓ I pray, with all that’s going on in the world and in the church, we can NOT _____ over this issue.
- ✓ The Bible is true—but YOUR _____ of the Bible in this case, is not infallible, so give some grace, will ya?
- ✓ Creation is AMAZING—the purpose of Genesis 1 and 2 is _____, not _____!

Next Pastor's Perspective will be next week, November 6th! "Pornography: Fake Intimacy that Destroys Our Souls."