

The 6,000-year-old World Story

By Dean L. Gano; July 2022

This human story begins with the book of Genesis where the first passage says: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* And then in verse 1:27 it says: *So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

The 6,000 years for the age of the earth is based on biblical passages mostly in Genesis that follow the lineage of Adam and Eve, where you find 1656 years from Adam's creation to Noah's Flood, 352 years from the Flood to Abraham's birth, and about 4000 years from Abraham's birth to today. So according to the Bible the earth and its people have only been around for about 6000+ years.

The first problem with this story is that it violates the laws of physics, which unlike a human story that changes every time it's told, these laws are repeatable, sensed, causal events that are the same for everyone every time. In this case, the laws for determining the age of old things is a repeatable process called [radiocarbon dating](#).

Carbon-14 is continually formed in nature by the interaction of neutrons with Nitrogen-14 in the Earth's atmosphere; the neutrons required for this reaction are produced by cosmic rays interacting with the atmosphere. Radiocarbon decays slowly in a living organism, and the amount lost is continually replenished as long as the organism takes in air or food. Once the organism dies, however, it ceases to absorb Carbon-14, so that the amount of the radiocarbon in its tissues steadily decreases. With Carbon-14, it takes about 5730 ± 40 years for half of the atoms in any sample to go to Nitrogen-14. This is called its half-life. After about 8 or 10 half-lives, the isotope is effectively gone. So, after about 50,000 years, any Carbon-14 that was in a plant or animal fossil is gone.

If the object is older than 50,000 years, age is determined by fission-track dating using elements that have known decay rates like Uranium or Potassium with have half-lives of millions or billions of years. See Table 1 below:

Original Element	Decay Product	Half-Life (yrs)	Dated Materials
Uranium-238	Lead-206	4.5 billion	Zircon
Uranium 235	Lead-207	704 million	Zircon
Rubidium-87	Strontium-87	48.8 billion	Many rock-forming minerals; Metamorphic or igneous rock
Potassium-40	Argon-40	1.25 billion	Many rock-forming minerals; Volcanic rocks
Samarium-147	Neodymium-143	106 billion	Common in all rocks
Carbon-14	Nitrogen-14	5,730	Previously living things

Table 1: Commonly used element pairs used to establish absolute ages

So, to date a rock, scientists take a small sample and see how much of the original element has converted to the decay product which will provide an estimate of its age. For example, if I had a rock that contained 50 units of Uranium-238 and 50 units of Lead-206, I know the rock is about 4.5 billion years old. If it had 95 units of Uranium and 5 units of Lead, then I know it has only been around for about 5% of 4.5 billion years or 22.5 million years.

As previously stated, science is based on repeatable evidenced-based cause and effect relationships as explained in the dating process above and [here if you want more details](#). It is not a human story told by ancient people who had no knowledge of science or the [cause-and-effect principles](#).

For me, the curious part of this story is the need to justify it. That is to say: What difference does it make in your relationship with God? It only makes a difference if you believe that the Bible is the written word of God and because he is perfect, it can't be wrong. However, the Bible is so full of contradictions and imperfections, a perfect God would never have published it. But there are many good reasons for these discrepancies. The main one being that it was written by people, not God. Here are 3 examples of the imperfections:

Imperfection #1: There are two versions of the Lord's Prayer; one in Mathew and one in Luke, and they are both different than the one I memorized as a kid. Why?

Mathew 6:10:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Luke 11:2:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Different, but the same general message. But why are they different if God is perfect? Possible answer: Since the Bible was assembled from many different handwritten, foreign language manuscripts, documenting stories about their relationship with God, told by many people, over many years, the details change. Just like the parlor game, where you assemble a bunch of people and whisper a story to the first one in line and then see how the story has changed by the time it gets to the last person.

Imperfection #2: Mathew says: *Jesus was born under the reign of Herod who died in 4 BC.* And Luke says: *Jesus was born after Cyrenius instituted the tax (6 AD) that Caesar Augustus decreed.* Yet we set his birth as December 25th 0000 AD.

Imperfection #3: Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John all present a different resurrection story.

Imperfection #: etc. etc.

Not only does the Bible have many imperfections, the Jesus story is very similar to many previous human gods. Here are just three of many: Horus lived in Egypt around 3000 BC, was born of a virgin on December 25th under a star in the east and became a teacher at age 12. He was baptized at 30 and had 12 disciples. Attis lived in Greece around 12 BC, was born of a virgin on December 25th, later crucified and then resurrected 3 days later. Mitra lived in Persia around 1200 BC, was also born of a virgin on December 25th, had 12 disciples, performed miracles, and was resurrected after being dead for three days.

So, what's going on here? Ancient people, just like normal humans today had an innate curiosity about what life is all about. Where did we come from, where are we going? What's in the sky or in the oceans? Questions, questions, questions??? Religion is the pursuit of answering those big questions and in that way, it is no different than science, because both seek to answer why things happen. While they are the same at their core, they are different in their methods. Science requires sensed, evidenced-based-causes for its answers, but because we are mortal beings with limited senses and cannot know that which cannot be sensed, religious questions are ultimately answered with spirituality and faith. For example, the age-old question: What makes a being a being? For sure, there are molecules involved, but what is the driving force that puts it all together? Answer: the Soul; and you can't see it, touch it, taste it, or smell it.

Humans were very nomadic and although they didn't have a formal education system, they did tell stories that shared their lineage and history. These stories kept tribes and families connected and the repetition of these stories was also their way of keeping track of families, tribes, and successful traditions. They had no idea there were thousands of other tribes all over a huge round planet with many continents and islands.

There was no little school house on the hill, and most people were illiterate, with no knowledge of the physical laws of nature, just a gut understanding of how things worked most of the time. As time went by, each tribe created a common understanding of how best to survive, often contrary to the next tribe or nation. Many of these stories were about their own relationship with God and hence why so many different beliefs about the unknown. Therefore, I believe the Bible is not about the specific words; it's about the message which taught illiterate humans how to live a better life. This is the fundamental nature of the Bible, so get over it because this 6000-year-old narrative provides no value to one's own relationship with God. And in fact, it seems to violate a fundamental tenant of the Bible: Honesty!

Also, just look at the history of the King James Version of the Bible. It was created because there were so many versions of "God's Word" that the Protestant churchmen of the day worked with King James of England to end the "confusion." Remember there

was [a great divide](#) between Catholicism and Protestants at that time. King James hired 47 scholars to put all the known scriptures together and make it consistent. It took them seven years. But remember, the original manuscripts were in several different foreign languages, so how do we know they got it right? Because there is no "Right." Again, it is about the message, not about being perfect or "Right."

Also, if God wrote it, what language of the over 7,000, did God use? What kind of typewriter did he use? Did he hand print it or use cursive? Did God use ink or pencil? Where is his original copy? Maybe he did all those things and used men as his scribe. Could it be that the Bible is written by many men telling of their experiences/relationship with God? And those experiences occurred over thousands of years in different lands.

The Bible is about how to live a good life worthy of God's love, and while the many stories in the Bible have very little similarity to today's world, the message is ageless. Remember, it's about the message! For example, in Psalms 15:1, someone who obviously has a relationship with God asks: "who shall dwell in the house of the Lord," God answers: "He who walks upright, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart." Or, to translate that into today's words: "A person who (walks upright) is a respected responsible member of society, (works righteousness) follows the moral teachings of the Bible, and (speaks the truth) doesn't lie to himself or others."

So, don't lie or be a party to one because [eventually all lies die and truth alone remains!](#) Be Responsible for yourself! Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Always be humble, Live, Love, and Leave a Legacy!