

The 6,000-year-old World Story

By Dean L. Gano; September 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 6,000+ 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 called principles. In this case, one of the principles 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. The carbon is absorbed by plants and then the animals eat the plants and use it to form bones, and other things. The carbon 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 decay into 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 which 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 only 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](#). Reality is not defined by stories, but by evidence-based causal relationships that follow these 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 imperfect people, not God. Here are but 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 as they repeat it, we see how the story changes 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.

If you want to study the thousands of other contradictions and imperfections of the Bible and why they are there, read "[Who Wrote the Bible](#)" by Richard Elliot Friedman, ©1987.

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. Our education system was founded in religious institutions seeking answers to the infinite set of why questions.

And while they are the same at their core, religion and scientific education 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. Stories written by distinctive personalities and different literary styles became scripture guided by God's inspiration through their own language and personality.

Therefore, given this historical perspective 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 forget about this 6000-year-old narrative, which provides no value to one's own relationship with God. And in fact, it seems to violate a fundamental tenant of the Bible: Honesty!

In addition to this historical analysis of this narrative, we know from simple casual observation that erosion of the land takes a long time, so how could the rocks at the bottom of the Grand Canyon only be 6,000 years old? [Well, because they are not.](#) They are 1.8 billion years old and it took about 6 million years to carve through all those layers of rock. The 6,000-year story simply defies common sense and scientific evidence.

To help us get back to reality, just look at the history of the King James Version (KJV) 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. So, in 1604, King James of England 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." In fact, the current accepted version of the Bible is the New International Version (NIV) fully revised by men (not God) in 2020.

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. Are you aware that there are many religious books of old that never made it into the Bible? Did God make that decision or did men? Read [Who Wrote the Bible?](#) to learn much much more.

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 is a respected responsible member of society, follows the moral teachings of the Bible, and doesn't lie to himself or others."

Many pastors and teachers of the Bible claim their narrative is the only true and righteous one, and hence why we have so many different sects and denominations. It seems contrary to the teachings of the Bible to be so prideful that your version is the only real truth. For example, in **1 Peter 5:5** we learn that: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." By claiming you are right and everyone else is wrong, that's not being humble!

Given that the Bible teaches honesty and humility as core values for a successful life, where is the humility in preaching that the Bible was written by God and therefore perfect? Seems a bit hypocritical to me. Remember: Pride always goes before the fall.

If we expand our search for knowledge and examine of the many religious books, like the Bible, Quran, and writings of Hindu and Buddhist teachings we find a myriad of stories told by many people over the ages regarding their religious experiences. The notion that these books were written by God, as some followers claim, violates reality. If a god had written their book, there would be no contradictions. Yet all religious teachings are filled with numerous contradictions, indicative of ineffective human thinking.

But there are other causes. All religions teach that life is a struggle between good and evil and provide different strategies to help the faithful identify these evils, which often reside within the human. Religion teaches the follower how to remove or fight these evil spirits and bad thoughts. The problem with this simple logic is that by categorizing something as good or evil, you fail to understand reality as defined by evidenced-based causal relationships. For example: is it good or bad that the lion eats the gazelle? Neither. By categorizing anything, you miss out on the reality that is defined by the [principles of causation](#).

If we identify Religion as an effect and ask; why does it exist, the principles of causation teach us that the action cause is believing (faith) and the conditional causes could be the fear of death, the recognition that the world is very complex and impossible to fully understand without help, or it could be the fear of being judged poorly at some point or some other personal condition.

But science has shown a much more factual condition in that our brains contain a group of neurons in the temporal lobe that release endorphins (Happy Juice) when stimulated

with spiritual and religious ideas. Neurologists have been able to stimulate this portion of the brain and make anti-religious people temporarily become believers and visa-versa. In other words, humans are designed with a spiritual nature.

And while each person and each religion are different, at the core of every religion is a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, and usually a moral code to help govern the conduct of human affairs as they journey through their world.

But let's go back to the fact that our brains have a bundle of nerves that specifically respond to mysterious things in our environment. Could this pre-condition be the reason why the leaders of a religion use rituals and ceremonies? By wearing bold and unusual costumes and waving hands and sticks around, or beating drums and singing, creating idols, etc., the leaders create a sense of excitement and wonder in the followers, which results in the release of endorphins and the feeling of hope, awe, and being part of a like-minded group. And with this feeling of community and hope, the worries of the world that are actually defined by an infinite set of unknowable causal relationships, are erased from our minds – at least temporarily. WOW, that's some powerful medicine!

I have been studying religion for 50+ years, and the main lessons I have learned are 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!