

IV.6. Lambs to Rams: Christ's Lineage & the Age of the Earth

With all that our children are being bombarded with, with what they're being taught in public schools concerning the age of the earth, dinosaurs and man's introduction in the scheme of things, what is the real truth on the matter? (*See also IV.1. Creation Week: days or Ages*)

Where can an inquisitively honest person find such information without bias and not just ride the bandwagon of believing something just because some famous person said it and the majority believe it?

Have you ever been asked by a parent or other person of authority after following someone else's ill behavior, "If he jumped off a cliff would you just jump off after him?" How many physicians of the past just took for granted that "bloodletting", for example, was an acceptably safe practice before doing personal research, only to find out in time how dangerous it really was? Didn't they just jump on the bandwagon as their predecessors did before them?

And if the so called experts on the age of the solar system can't all come to some sort of agreement on how old the earth actually is, with all good conscience, how can they be so bold to make any claim with respect to time or age of all things physical? What is the ultimate source? We understand it, without a doubt, to be the Bible.

Gen 1:1 **"In the beginning,** God created the heavens and the earth." (*Emp. mine*)

So then, some will surely ask, "When, according to the Bible, was the beginning?" To answer that question we need to have a way of measuring time, from the present, back to that very point. We can do so by determining how long man has been here, since Jesus stated that... "from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'" (*Mark 10:6*)

From Jesus' statement we know man has been here "from the beginning of creation". He would have known that since He was with God "before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of [us]". (*1 Pet 1:20*)

Joh 1:2 "He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."

We understand that Jesus has always existed. As part of Deity He created all things "in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created through Him and for Him." (*Col 1:16*)

Gen 1:26 "Then God said, '**Let Us** make man in **Our image**, after **Our likeness**. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' ... 31 And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." (*Emp. added*)

So, on the sixth literal day God created man. Thus the earth is five days older than man.

Now let's again start from the present and measure time back to that point. First we need to measure back to the time Jesus came. Why should that be so important? Since time is measured in years and years are recorded by dating with reference to Jesus' birth (*BC [before Christ], AD*), shouldn't it be deemed appropriate to begin from the point of His coming? At the time of this writing, we are in the year 2020 A.D. (*anno Domini- Latin for "in the year of our Lord"*) and Jesus, according to secular dating, was on the earth at the beginning of the first century A.D. So far we've already established, by this method, about 2,000 years as a portion of the age of the earth. What next?

There are two inspired genealogies of Christ recorded in the Bible. The first is found in Matthew's account which is through Joseph but only begins with Abraham and not Adam.

Mat 1:1 "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,"...

Mat 1:16 "...and (*another*) Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary (*making Joseph Jesus' legal parent*), of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations."

Biblical genealogies are usually traced through the family patriarchs. Matthew's account lists 40 generations, between Abraham (*who lived to be 175 years old*) to Jesus through "Mary, of whom Jesus was born" (*Jesus' biological parent*). Luke's account traces Jesus' lineage through Joseph (*His 'legal parent and Joseph's father, Mary's father-in-law*), which lists 76 generations. Both were from the same tribe (*Judah*). A generation isn't measured by the age of those living in it as it is the time between birth and procreation. The average generation then was measured between a man's birth and depended on when he began to have children that traced his genealogy since Abraham didn't have Isaac until he was one hundred years old (*Gen 16:16*).

That said, the approximate number of years between Jesus and Abraham would amount to another 2,000 years, totaling thus far, 4,000 years. But how then do we account for the period between the life of Abraham and Adam's creation? We next look at Christ's genealogy in the account Luke wrote through Joseph, who "was supposed" to be Jesus' father with Mary who he "found to be with child from the Holy Spirit", and "being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly". (*Mat 1:18-19*)

Mat 1:20 "But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"

So we know the rest of the story in that Joseph became the 'legal' father (*adoptive parent*) to Jesus knowing he was raising, as his own, the Son of God.

Luk 3:23 “Jesus, when He began His ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed*) of Joseph, the son of Heli,” (*Mary's biological father*)...

Notice how Matthew's account of Jesus' lineage is in descending order whereas Luke's is in ascending. In Matthew we find Christ's lineage traced from Abraham to Joseph, His 'legal' parent, but in Luke's account through Joseph's father-in-law Heli back to our first parent Adam and then to God. According to Adam Clarke, “the Hebrews never permitted women to enter into their genealogical tables, whenever a family happened to end with a daughter, instead of naming her in the genealogy they inserted her husband, as the son of him who was, in reality, but his father-in-law. Jesus was considered according to law, or allowed by custom, to be the son of Joseph, as he (*Joseph*) was of Heli (*in Luke's account*).” If in Matthew's account Joseph was the offspring of Jacob, then in Luke's account he would have been Heli's son-in-law. The phrase “as was supposed” legally put Jesus under Joseph's legal (*adoptive*) authority/care.

Luk 3:33 “...the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham,” ... 38 “...the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”

“In chapter 3 of the book that bears his name, Luke lists 55 generations between Jesus and Abraham—a time that archaeology has determined to be about 2,000 years (*see Kitchen and Douglas, 1982*). In that same chapter, Luke documents that there were only 20 generations between Abraham and Adam. How much time is covered by those twenty generations? Since Genesis 5 provides the ages of the fathers at the time of the births of the sons in the period between Abraham and Adam, it is a simple matter to calculate the approximate number of years during that time span—a figure that turns out to be about 2,000.” Kyle Butt- Apologetics Press: *The Bible Says The Earth Is Young* (2002)

Putting this all together then we can see that the earth isn't “billions” of years old but a mere six thousand years young, give or take a few years: 2,000 from Adam to Abraham, 2, 000 between Abraham and Christ and another 2,000 from when Christ walked the earth unto today. With this established by the only consistent source on the age of the earth, we can definitely trust it for the truth it presents on all other matters of science and faith. What a shame the Bible record isn't referenced in secular classrooms of contemporary learning; especially when there are so many other scientific facts that have been revealed through the pages of the inspired writings long before the age of modern science.

IV.6. Questions

1. True or false: Scientific experts all agree on the age of the earth and solar system. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.
2. How can we accurately measure the age of the earth? a) by measuring the distance from the earth to the sun; b) by measuring time with Jesus' coming as a focal point; c) through the genealogies of the apostles.
3. Did Jesus exist before Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit? Explain. a) no, His birth in the manger introduced Him as God's Son; b) yes, He is part of the eternal Godhead; c) the text does not say.
4. How many genealogies of Christ are listed in the New Testament? Where are they? a) one, in Matthew; b) two, in Matthew and Luke; c) three, in Matthew, Luke and John.
5. Why is it important to measure time by when Jesus lived on the earth? a) He is God's Son; b) we can trace time through Jesus' lineage; c) Jesus was an astronomer.
6. What is considered a "generation" and how are they traced? a) time of a man's birth to his death, through genealogy; b) time from a grandson's birth according to when his grandfather lived; c) time from a man's birth and when he began to have children, through the patriarchs.
7. How many years were there between Adam and Abraham? Between Abraham and Christ? Between Christ and today? a) exactly 1,500; b) approximately 2,000; c) the text is not specific.
8. What is the only consistent source by which we can measure the age of the earth? a) the Bible; b) the age of the universe; c) scientists.