

Age of the World

Release 2.0

May 25, 2021

The following content has been extracted from the full document titled "Between the Lines (of the Bible)." Hyperlinks to other chapters in full document may not work.

If you find grammatical or other errors or have any comments in general, I would be happy to receive your feedback in email.

Stephen Ing

feedback@btlb.org

<http://btlb.org>

Appendix C – The age of the world

There has been much speculation about the age of the world and the universe. According to Wikipedia, secular science teaches the following:

- The universe is about 13.7 billion years old¹
- The earth was formed about 4.57 billion years ago²
- Life began somewhere between 3.5 and 2.5 billion years ago³

Among Christian viewpoints, Young Earth Creationists (YEC), believe based on the biblical account in Genesis that life on earth began 5700-10000 years ago.⁴ Some interesting numbers or beliefs from the YEC wiki page are:

- The earth and the universe were created by the God of the Bible in six literal days
- They believe the Bible is historically accurate, and a factually inerrant record of natural history
- The YEC view was the dominant view during the 1500-1800's
 - During this time James Ussher, an Archbishop who lived from 1582-1656, after extensive research published a creation date as the week preceding Sunday October 23, 4004 BC.^{5 6}
 - Among the many proposed dates, Ussher's became most prominent, probably because it was published with the King James Bible
- Support for the YEC viewpoint declined after the 1800's with the rise of the scientific revolution
- YEC views had a revival with fundamentalist Christians in the 1900's
- Depending on the poll, 40-50% of people in the United States identify with the YEC viewpoint, but the number drops to only 22% among people with post graduate degrees
- A 2008 Gallup poll came up with the following statistics:
 - 36% of U.S. adults agreed with the statement that "human beings developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process."
 - 14% believed that "Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process."
 - 44% of US adults agreed with the statement "God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so."

My beliefs are mostly in line with YEC views. I do not believe that God had to create the entire universe at the same time. He made our world to be consistent with the Genesis account. I feel that simply creating our own solar system or maybe our local cluster could have sufficed for creating sun moon and stars on the fourth day.

Now let's begin to discuss how one arrives at the figure of approximately 4000 BC for the creation of our world.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Big_Bang

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Earth

³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abiogenesis>

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Earth_creationism

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Ussher

⁶ http://creation.com/images/pdfs/other/timeline_of_the_bible.pdf

- 1656 years from Adam to the flood
 - [Genesis 5](#) gives us a very clear genealogy from Adam down to Noah's birth which covers 1056 years (see [The Antediluvian World](#))
 - [Genesis 7:6](#) tells us that Noah was 600 years old when the flood came
- 222 years from the start of the flood to the birth of Terah, father of Abraham
 - [Genesis 8](#) tells us that Noah and his family came out of the ark in the 601st year of his life
 - [Genesis 11:10](#) gives us a time based genealogy from the second year after the flood, through 8 generations from the flood to the birth of Terah the father of Abraham. (see [Decreasing lifespan after the flood](#))
- 70 or 130 years: There is some debate about whether Abraham was born when Terah was 70 or 130 (see [Decreasing lifespan after the flood](#))
 - [Genesis 11:27](#) tells us that Terah didn't start having children until he was 70. Was Abraham the first born?
 - [Genesis 11:32-12:4](#) tells us that Terah died in Haran at 205 years of age, then Abraham left Haran at the age of 75 which would have made Terah 130 when Abraham was born
- 290 years from the birth of Abraham to the start of the Israelites sojourn in Egypt (See [Decreasing lifespan after the flood](#))
 - [Genesis 21:5](#) Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born
 - [Genesis 25:26](#) Isaac was 60 years old when Esau & Jacob were born
 - [Genesis 47:9](#) Jacob was 130 years old when he went to Egypt
- 215-430 years: There is some debate about how long the children of Israel were in Egypt (see [The length of the sojourn in Egypt](#))
 - [Genesis 15:13](#) prediction about his descendants mistreatment in Egypt for 400 years and four generations
 - [Exodus 12:40-41](#) says 430 years
 - [Exodus 6:16-20](#) names only the four generations with life span but not ages at birth as the earlier genealogies did
 - Levi 137 years, and in [The children of Israel enslaved, birth of Moses](#), I estimate Levi was 43 when he went to Egypt, meaning he lived there for 92 years
 - Kohath 133 years
 - Amram 137 years
 - Moses 80 years at the Exodus
 - [Acts 7:6](#) enslaved and mistreated for 400 years
 - [Galatians 3:17](#) 430 years from the covenant to Abraham to the ten commandments which are considered to have been given the year of the Exodus
- 479 years: [1 Kings 6:1](#) tells us that the fourth year of Solomon's reign was the 480th year after the Exodus
- 37 years: [2 Chronicles 9:30](#) tells us that Solomon reigned 40 years, so 40 minus the three above gives 37
- 345 years: The books of Kings and Chronicles gives us a fairly good idea of the duration of time from the end of Solomon's reign to the captivity of the Southern Kingdom of Judah to Babylon. Just adding up the length of reigns given in the Bible, one would arrive at 387. But Edwin Thiele showed that there must have been some overlapping reigns and in addition, you have to decide whether the transition year is counted for both king's reigns or not.⁷ (see also [The divided kingdom](#))

⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mysterious_Numbers_of_the_Hebrew_Kings

- 70 years in Babylon: [Jeremiah 25:11,12](#); [29:10-14](#); [2 Chronicles 36:20-23](#); [Daniel 9:2](#); [Ezra 1:1](#)
- 538 years before Christ, according to multiple historical sources was when the Jews were released by Cyrus the Great and commissioned to rebuild the Jewish temple.^{8 9 10}

Adding these numbers up, we get 3922-4197 years before Christ. It is not the purpose of this article to debate the 215 vs. 430 year sojourn in Egypt, nor the age of Terah at the birth of Abraham. The precise timeline of the Jewish kings has been a subject of intense study and research by many people. Edwin Thiele,¹¹ a Seventh-day Adventist, missionary, archaeologist, and scholar wrote a book titled, "[The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings](#)," on this topic.¹² In spite of these questions, if the pre and post flood chronologies are accepted at face value, and the days of creation are taken to be literal 24 hour days, it is pretty easy to arrive at the 6000 year age of the world since creation, which is what I believe.

What do you believe?

1. Do you believe that the Bible is a historically accurate book?
2. Do you think it's possible to be a scientist and believe in a 6000 year old earth?
3. How do you think the flood could have affected secular science's views on the age of the earth?

⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_in_Jerusalem#Second_Temple

⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/530s_BC

¹⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Jewish_history#Biblical_period

¹¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_R._Thiele

¹² http://www.auss.info/auss_publication_file.php?pub_id=840&journal=1&type=pdf, [copy on <http://btlb.org/1992-1-03.pdf>]