



## 2020 2Q How to Interpret Scripture: Lesson 9 Creation: Genesis as Foundation—Part 2

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SUNDAY

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Read first paragraph, “It is commonly...” How was it that people believed the earth was flat? From their limited sensory experiences, what they could perceive from a single point on earth, and misinterpreting or misunderstanding Scripture. The angels standing at the four corners of the earth taken concretely rather than figuratively.

But, while we might give understanding to those who believed the earth was flat thousands of years ago—how do we explain the flat earth society today?

Today, there are people who believe the earth is flat. It is an incredible example of the capacity of the human mind to deny evidence and distort facts in order to hold to a false belief. So let’s examine the Flat Earther’s belief system and identify the various mental tricks employed to deny reality and how these same methods are used by billions of people around the world to cling to other false belief systems. From the [Flat Earthers—website](#) here are some of their key beliefs and explanations:

- Their beliefs are not a joke. They want to be taken seriously.
- Their beliefs are based primarily upon what a person can experience with their own unenhanced senses—no telescopes, just stand in a place on the earth and look around. Thus, they restrict the evidence they base their belief upon to what they can experience directly.
  - This process is one of selection bias—limiting oneself to a restricted evidence-base in order to minimize or eliminate data, facts, evidence that would refute or contradict the core belief.
  - This process is also seen in:
  - The way *sola Scriptura* is used by the penal legal theologians. They restrict the evidence they are willing to accept by rejecting science, nature, real life experiences—thus they cling to a false view of God’s character and government.
  - This was exactly how the flat earth idea was believed in the Middle Ages—the theologians refused to accept science, used Scripture only.
  - Evolutionists who reject the Bible and restrict their evidence-pool to only those data-points which they can currently measure or test. They also reject and refuse to incorporate scientific data-points that refute the godless origins theory. Such as the radio halos found in ever bedrock of the earth.
- While the Flat Earth Society is not tied to a religion, many adherents take a literal view of Scripture.
  - This is literalism, concrete thinking, refusing to abstract, refusing to understand symbols, metaphor, parables, figures of speech etc.
  - Many Christians do this with a variety of beliefs: “The Bible said it, I believe it.” Examples, taking the parable of Lazarus and the rich man as literal. Or, reading



statements of God hardening Pharaoh's heart as literal—God making Pharaoh into a rebel even though Pharaoh really wanted to repent and love God. Or, predestination, in which God chooses who is saved and lost.

- They deny humans have been to space and claim that the various national space agencies have faked all the videos in order to create complex organizations to embezzle money.
  - Denial of reality to maintain a firmly held belief. This is a classic primitive defense mechanism, seen in addictions where the addict denies they have a problem, or claims they can handle it. It is also seen in relationships of abuse in which the victim makes excuses for the abuser, denying the problem is a lack of love in the abuser and the abuser also denies the problem is in their own heart/mind and instead blames the victim.
  - Scientists do this constantly when they deny evidence that refutes their godless theories—such as genetic evidence that refutes Darwin's theory of mutation over millions of years. Or, how no godless theory exists to explain where the coded information found in our DNA came from—which is required for all life.
  - Religious groups that deny evidence exposing sacred beliefs as false, most importantly the false belief that God's law works like human law, imposed rules requiring God to punish.
- They argue that photographic and video evidence from weather balloons, aircraft, satellites *can* be easily doctored or altered. Therefore, such evidence is not to be accepted as reliable.
  - This is taking a fact or truth and applying it falsely to create a lie or falsehood: take a truth—photographic evidence *can* be altered—and applying that fact to the photos in question without actually demonstrating that the photos or videos in question have been doctored. Thus, any evidence that refutes the position can be rejected out of hand because “photos *can* be altered.”
  - Christians do this in a variety of ways. Fact: We are to live by having faith in God. False application: Having faith means we don't ask questions and don't require evidence, we just believe. Fact: We are to trust the Bible as the inspired Word of God. False application: We are not to reason but take the Bible just as it reads.
  - Scientists do this via multiple false assumptions. Fact: Carbon 14 decays at a fixed rate. False application: Accurate carbon dating can be obtained by measuring carbon 14 levels—but this is predicated upon an unprovable assumption that carbon 14 in the atmosphere was the same thousands of years ago as it is today.
- They believe the earth is a flat disc with the arctic circle at the center and the sun revolves around the earth. Around the edges of the disc is an ice wall that holds the oceans in. Government agencies have people at the ice wall to prevent anyone from climbing over and discovering the edge of the world.
- They deny gravity exists and instead believe what we call gravity is centrifugal force claiming the earth is constantly accelerating.
  - The result of employing multiple mental gymnastics—selection bias, denial, distortion, and false application of facts results in forming beliefs that are out of harmony with reality, i.e. false beliefs, lies.
  - Christianity has many of these—God is the source of pain and suffering under the guise of justice. Human beings have immortal souls. God tortures humans in hell for all



- eternity. God killed Jesus on the cross in order to satisfy His wrath. God requires the blood of a human sacrifice in order to forgive us.
- Science has many of these—there is no God. Life came from non-living matter all on its own. Complexity and organization occur spontaneously on their own without any intelligent input.
  - When asked how is it that the other planets that we can see are spheres and not round discs—their answer is that the other planets are not earth, and a flat earth doesn't require the other planets to be flat.
    - Christians do this when questions or evidence doesn't fit their model and they respond with: God's ways are not our ways, we just take that on faith and don't require it to make sense.

The Bible teaches how reality works—there is truth and there are lies. Each of us is to be fully persuaded in our own minds (Rom 14:5). If we choose to reject the truth then the only thing left for the mind to rest upon is a lie and with each subsequent rejection of truth we go further and further from reality until we eventually become delusional. This is what the Bible teaches in 2 Thes 2:9-11:

The rise of the deviant one will be accompanied by manifestation of Satan's methods and power, counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and anything else that deceives and darkens the minds of those who are dying—those who did not develop minds that love the truth, and thereby did not partake of the Remedy. Because they reject the truth, God leaves them to their delusional world built on lies. *The Remedy*

This is true regarding any subject matter. If we on a clear day look at the sky and tell you the sky is blue, and use a meter that gives the exact wavelength of light being refracted and present that evidence to a person. They still have to choose to accept and believe it or reject it. But if they reject it—what is left for the mind to rest upon? It doesn't matter whether they choose red, or pink, or brown, or green, if it isn't blue it is a lie.

This is what happens to many people, they have never trained the mind to think through evidence and they form beliefs without evidence and thus reject evidence to cling to the belief. But this process damages and enfeebles the mind.

Let's talk a little about critical reasoning.

The more complex an issue the more easily for someone to find themselves believing false theories.

The more complex the issue the more information, facts, and data-points are needed to determine an accurate view.

Consider a complex puzzle with 10,000 pieces—what happens if you are given 12 of those pieces and told to determine the image?

Would accuracy increase with more pieces included?



This is the problem with Christian theologies—many of the conclusions, teachings, doctrines, are formed on limited data, using some of the pieces but not all of them.

Martin Luther for instance only accepted 62 books of the Bible as inspired, not all 66. He didn't value Revelation, Jude, James, and Hebrews. Excluding these four books deletes a lot of information particularly about the Great Controversy and the war in heaven, and thereby alters the context to understand the rest of Scripture.

Many Christians today split the Bible in two and teach an old dispensation with an Old Testament and a new dispensation with a New Testament. The Old Testament is not included in many theologies, at least not in the same way.

The Jews of course deny the New Testament and thus limit their understanding of reality.

Many Christians refuse the integrative evidenced-based approach and don't include the puzzle pieces from science and life experiences.

Others who value Scripture don't include all 66, they pick and choose the texts that support their view, but don't include and rationally explain the texts that don't.

Another way to distort the picture is to bring in pieces that are not part of the original puzzle. Muslims and Mormons bring in additional writings that take supremacy over Scripture and thus alter the picture they see from Scripture.

We at Come and Reason want to include all the evidence God has given—all of Scripture, plus science and experience.

Then, with all the evidence form the most accurate understanding of truth, always remaining open to have our views expand and update as more truth is understood and uncovered. In other words, we don't lock into a certain view and refuse to update with new credible evidence.

We also recognize that some pieces or threads of evidence have more value than other evidence. Foundational to understanding reality is to identify God's design laws—the laws upon which reality is built to operate. These are constants, they never change and therefore become references, yardsticks, barometers, guidelines to which our explanations must conform.

Further, for accurate understanding of Scripture one needs to recognize Jesus is God. This truth becomes another standard upon which our explanations of the rest of Scripture must be conformed. If we have teachings about God that contradict the truth that Jesus revealed about God, then we know our explanations are incorrect.

But if we deny Jesus is fully God then the message of Scripture gets distorted—God is not fully revealed in Jesus. If Jesus is not fully God, we don't know what God would do in various



circumstances. We don't know whether God would forgive His persecutors, if Jesus is not fully God. Worse, we instead learn that God would sacrifice another to protect Himself rather than God sacrificing Himself for the good of others. Those who deny the Trinity, don't realize the terrible corruption of God's character the Arian or non-trinitarian views bring.

Why is it necessary for every person to be fully persuaded in their own mind? What happens if a person believes something because someone else told them, but they haven't actually been persuaded?

- Either they don't really believe it and they just conform which means they are really being dishonest and in hidden state of rebellion or,
- They are not settled, so even if they are a genuine believer, they are easily converted to another belief when a new dynamic and charismatic speaker comes along and presents what appears to be persuasive evidence.

But what is the problem in the mind of the person who believes the right thing, the actual truth, but hasn't thought it out for themselves. In other words, what is wrong with believing the truth because someone else told you the answer, your church, your parents, your pastor etc.?

It would be like knowing the right answers to the math exam because someone else told you that was the answer, even if your memorized answer is correct, you still don't know how to do math. Thus, your ability to examine facts, evidences, problem solve is impaired and you will base decisions on who you have the most confidence in, not in the truth itself.

When Satan impersonates Christ and does miracles etc. such people are almost certainly going to be deceived.

Our current culture is rife with such people, who believe headlines, believe people in authority, believe media personalities, believe news reports, but don't examine the evidence and reason it out for themselves.

## MONDAY

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This is a very interesting lesson, it describes one of the ancient non-Biblical creation narratives—the *Atra-Hasis* Epic.

The lesson points out critical differences, read #1 and #2, “In *Atra-Hasis* man works...”

When we understand the difference between design law and imposed law this is obviously and clearly Satanic in origin.

Notice this account has humans working so the gods can rest and the gods ultimately use power and force including death in order to bring forth life. This is exactly opposite of God's kingdom of love in



which God gives of Himself for our good so we can find rest in Him and our God is the enemy of death, He is the one who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light.

In a biblical worldview, we understand that there are two antagonistic forces at war: God and His kingdom of love, truth, freedom—which is at war with Satan and his kingdom of fear-driven selfishness, deceit, and coercion.

From the beginning of Satan’s rebellion in heaven, he put his methods into play and attempted to ascend to the universe’s highest position in order to rule over the other beings (Isaiah 14:13, 14). Satan’s method is domination over, rule over.

But notice God’s methods as revealed in Jesus. “Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death” (Philippians 2:5–8 NIV84).

Satan’s method is to *rule over and dominate others*, requiring the masses to serve him; God’s method is to *give of Himself to uplift His creation*.

We see this difference in the contrast between the Bible Genesis account and the *Atra-Hasis* Epic. But, many have failed to see this essential difference in Christianity and the world today.

The three major monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) have all been infected with the idea that God laws are like human laws, imperial rules requiring external infliction of punishment, rather than the truth that God’s laws are design laws.

This has led to the false idea that sin is a legal problem that needs punishing, rather than a terminal condition that needs curing.

Every government based upon Satan’s methods is a system in which a ruling elite rules over the masses in order to exploit the masses for the benefit of the few ruling elites. This is all accomplished through the imposing of rules/laws and the infliction of punishments for rule-breakers, along with rewards to those who please the elite.

Sin and evil are not the same. Sinfulness is a condition of being—a state of disharmony with God’s design. Something with which we are born and is cured only in Jesus.

Evil is not merely the sin condition: struggling with fear, selfishness, addictions, and lusts. Evil is the *intentional and purposeful choice* to embrace selfishness and exploit, abuse, injure, harm, and dominate others. It is recognizable as actions that thwart other people’s paths toward growth, development, enlightenment, and ultimately entering into a saving and eternal relationship with God.

Thus, activities of Satan and those influenced by him have the impact of demoralizing, degrading, injuring, harming, and undermining others—with the effect of one person or group dominating another



person or group. In other words, satanic agencies seek to destroy the image of God in humans such that we become less capable of self-governance (the last fruit of the Spirit) and, thus, put us in need of external oversight, control, or being cared for by others.

Satanic agencies will always attempt to destroy individuality, thinking, reasoning, and autonomy in order to mold people into fear-driven, thoughtless hordes that are willing to subject themselves to the control of others they view as stronger, wiser, or in some way more capable or worthy.

Can you think of some examples in society?

Can you think of some examples in the church?

- indoctrination rather than teaching to think
- believe under coercion—threats from God or threats from the church
- The papal organizational structure is one of a ruling elite, a hierarchy with a supreme dictator operating upon imperial law. The SDA church was organized with diffusion of authority to the membership and not a central leadership. This was designed to allow truth to unfold and grow. Truth doesn't advance in society with all people waking up one day with the new understanding. It advances with individuals making discoveries and sharing their new insights, which are initially resisted, but because they are truth they are demonstrated over time to be more accurate and slowly, over time more and more people accept the truth and society advances. The SDA system was set up so that new truths could arise and false ideas would be weeded out naturally. Truth would occur in a local church, it would be shared within that group, conferences and then unions and divisions would slowly embrace the new truth and then when the majority of the world church have accepted the new light it becomes part of the official position of the church. The papal system resists such growth as it dictates the beliefs from on high and new beliefs from individuals that challenge orthodoxy is considered heresy. Sadly some in the SDA church have moved to reshape the organization into the papal model with a central hierarchy that dictates beliefs and obstructs the advancement of truth. This then obstructs the development and uplifting of people.

By contrast, God's methods always seek to uplift and develop people restoring them back into the image of God.

When God's principles are active, people gain autonomy, ability, and capability. The principles of truth, love, and freedom lead people to think for themselves, grow in insight, wisdom, and understanding; in exercising their own ability to think and to do; in developing their God-given individuality to become thinkers, not mere reflectors of other people's thoughts.

This is why Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." Because every human government in history has a few ruling elites dominating and exploiting the masses for the benefit of the elites—the aristocracy.

- ancient Egypt with its Pharaohs
- China with its emperors and empresses



- Japan with its shoguns eventually leading to its emperors
- Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome with their kings, emperors, and popes leading to the nation states of Europe with their divine right of kings

When the US government was set established, its constitution was specifically written to obstruct this Satanic model—a ruling elite exploiting the masses. The US Constitution was written to diffuse power into the hands of the people and prevent a ruling aristocracy from arising. It did this by:

- Decentralization of power into three equal branches (legislative, executive, judicial)
- The limitation of congress to remove the president except for specific listed crimes (treason, bribery, high crimes and misdemeanors). The framers did not want the U.S. government to be parliamentary, as in Britain, in which the prime minister *serves* at the behest of the parliament and can be removed for political reasons at any time with a majority vote of the parliament.
- Use of the electoral college rather than simple majority vote, which is another way to decentralize power and protect the rights of the minority.
- The separation of church and state—having seen the abuses in Europe when religious institutions controlled the power of the state, the framers specifically sought to limit the power of religions to control state agencies in order to enforce religious dogmas.
- The right of the citizenry to carry and bear arms—purposefully written into the constitution as a means for the citizens to protect themselves from threats, including those of an abusive government.
- The right to a free and independent press, intended to investigate and expose corruption in government so that the people could act via their power to vote to bring about change.
- The right to privacy, including no search and seizure without a warrant—again, giving power to the citizen and requiring the ruling authority to have legitimate justification to overrule individual liberties.
- The right to not self-incriminate. During the Inquisition, if an inquisitor asked you a question and you refused to answer, it was considered the same as an admission of guilt. The framers took power from the state and gave it to the individual.
- An educated citizenry who could read and write in order to be informed and to think for themselves and understand the processes involved to help elect qualified leaders.
- The requirement of elections every two years for the house, six years for the senate, and four years for president, thus, ultimately putting the power into the hands of the electorate and preventing an elite minority from ruling over the majority
- High hurdles to change this system written into the constitution.

If we believe the Biblical worldview, then we can anticipate that the US constitution with its protections of liberty and the diffusion of power into the hands of the masses will be attacked and eroded and that eventually a ruling elite will take over the US and use centralized governmental power to exploit the masses. Have we seen this occurring over the years since the founding of the USA?





Now, as I list some examples of how Constitutional protections have been slowly eroded, I want you to observe one of Satan's strategies or methods—doing evil and then initiating a response to destroy, removed, stop the evil—but the response ultimately erodes Constitutional protections.

- The Civil War strengthened the federal government and weakened states' rights—despite its positive effect of eliminating slavery
- Ever increasing gun regulation, making law-abiding citizens more dependent and vulnerable to the state's overreach—despite its intended positive goal to reduce gun violence in society
- Movements in certain states to do away with the electoral college—despite its stated goal of merely wanting the election to be representative of the majority of people
- The movement of media organizations toward promoting agendas rather than presenting facts—despite their goal of wanting to improve society
- The erosion to the right to privacy: FISA Courts, Patriot act, ever increasing cameras monitoring our behavior, digital listening systems, internet monitoring—despite the goal to protect us from terrorism
- Federal income tax which shifts economic power from individuals to the Federal government—despite the goal to protect the nation from foreign powers and provide social benefits
- Uncoupling the dollar from the gold standard and the creation of the Federal Reserve, which further moves economic power away from people to the ruling elites—despite the goal of a stable economy
- Huge government bureaucracies with layers of regulation and restrictions of liberty—despite the goal to protect from abuse and exploitation
- Governmental determination of what businesses are essential and what are not in the current COVID pandemic—despite the goal of protecting citizens from disease and death

Did you notice that every erosion of the protections of liberty, every move toward an ever-increasing centralized government with ruling elites is by attacking some actual other abuse or wrong? This is a classic strategy of Satan, create a wrong, an injury, an illness even, and then have the solution to that problem move further toward Satan's end-goal of a world-government of ruling elites that dominate the masses.

This is the mindset of the social progressives and all socialistic and communist governments—they present a problem—poverty, economic inequality, exploitation of a segment of society and then propose a solution in which ruling elites take away liberty and enforce by coercion the mandates of the government.

All false narratives have a controlling god who restricts liberty and takes from the masses to support the deity. Christians who hold to an imposed law view of God will do the same thing when they see a wrong to their worldview—abortion, homosexual marriage, and then seek to get the government to restrict liberty to achieve the goal that they believe is right. It is the exact same beastly method and they are falling for the exact same trick of the devil.



The truth is that God is the source of all and life, energy, goodness, love, truth all originate from Him and He is constantly dispersing His own energies for our health, welfare and the sustaining of His universe.

## TUESDAY

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Genesis versus Paganism—what is the root lie to all paganism? A god who functions like created beings, who makes up rules and governs by the use of coercive power, i.e. overseeing behavior and inflicting punishment for rule-breaking.

In other words, a god who is in some way restrictive of liberty.

Satan used this method in Eden, did God say you *cannot* eat from any tree in the garden—God is restricting your liberty. Rather than the truth, God gives us complete freedom—freedom to choose absolutely—but not freedom from the design laws and thus not freedom from the results or consequences of our choices.

So what is paganism—gods who make up rules, inflict punishment, and require the lesser creatures do something to the god to get the god to give to them.

At the 1897 General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor George E. Fifield, secretary of the New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, gave a powerful sermon on this subject. Here is an excerpt:

“In Christ Jesus we ...[are] the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone. ... This is as near to the Lord as we can get. This is the at-one-ment. ... Notwithstanding this, we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted [Isa 53:4]. That was what we thought about it. **We said, God is doing all this; God is killing him, punishing him, to satisfy his wrath, in order to let us off. That is the pagan conception of sacrifice.** The Christian idea of sacrifice is this. Let us note the contrast. ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ That is the Christian idea. Yes, sir. Indifference keeps, hatred keeps, selfishness keeps. ... But love, and love only, sacrifices, gives freely, gives itself, gives without counting the cost; gives because it is love. That is sacrifice, whether it is the sacrifice of bulls and goats, or of him who is the Lamb of God. It is the sacrifice that is revealed throughout the entire Bible. **But the pagan idea of sacrifice is just the opposite. It is that some god is always offended, always angry, and his wrath must be propitiated in some way.**

“If it is an ordinary case, the blood of bulls and goats will suffice; but if it is an extraordinary case, the blood of some innocent virgin or child must flow; and when the god smells the blood, his wrath is appeased. We talk of pagan immortality, pagan Sunday, pagan idolatry, etc.; **but it seems to me that the lowest thought is that men have brought this pagan idea of sacrifice**



**right into the Bible, and applied it to the sacrifice of the cross. So the Methodist Discipline uses these words: ‘Christ died to reconcile the Father unto us,’ that is, to propitiate God so that we could be forgiven—paganism straight out.** Why, brethren and sisters, it is the application of the pagan conception of sacrifice to the sacrifice upon the cross, so that that wonderful manifestation of divine love, which God intended should cause all men, all beings in the universe, to wonder and adore, has been turned around and made a manifestation of wrath to be propitiated in order to save man. I am glad that we are losing sight of this manner of viewing the subject, where we do not say that Christ died to reconcile the Father unto us. **Brethren, there is sometimes such a thing as to give up the expression of a thing, and think we have thus gotten rid of it, when a good deal of it still lingers and clouds our consciousness of the love of God, and the beauty of his truth, so that we cannot present a clear gospel.**” (1897 General Conference Daily Bulletin Sermon Series number 1)

Do you see how paganism has infected Christianity? The entire penal substitution theology is a form of paganism as it teaches a false penal/legal god who requires propitiation of wrath by the blood of a human sacrifice.

## WEDNESDAY

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The lesson focuses upon the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 and how they give specific ages when persons had children, how long they lived, what age when they died. They make the point that these specifications give credibility to the veracity of the Biblical account. Particularly it doesn't leave room for missing generations to extend the age of the earth by millions of years.

The lesson points out that some have attempted to reinterpret these accounts to be metaphor, or to skip generations so that the timeline can be extended to conform to the currently understood scientific model of the age of the earth.

Let's talk about that.

There are two general ways scientists try to determine age of some fossil, relic or rock.

If it is organic (containing carbon) then they often use carbon dating. If it is inorganic they use radio-decay rates of various radio isotopes.

Where does C -14 Come From?

Radiocarbon dating relies on a simple natural phenomenon. As the Earth's upper atmosphere is bombarded by cosmic radiation, atmospheric nitrogen is broken down into an unstable isotope of carbon - carbon 14 (C-14).

The unstable isotope is brought to Earth by atmospheric activity, such as storms, and becomes fixed in the biosphere. Because it reacts identically as regular carbon C-12, C-14 becomes



attached to complex organic molecules through photosynthesis in plants and becomes part of their molecular makeup. Animals eating those plants in turn absorb Carbon-14 as well as the stable isotopes. This process of ingesting C-14 continues as long as the plant or animal remains alive, thus the amount of C-14 in a living organism remains constant, at the same ratio as what is in the environment.

### C-14 Decay Profile

When the organism dies, the ratio of C-14 within its carcass begins to gradually decrease. The rate of decrease is 1/2 the quantity at death every 5,730 years. That is the half-life of C-14.

So when some bones are found and dated at 3 million years what do we say? Are they measuring the amount of radiocarbon correctly? No, C14 levels become too small to continue to measure beyond what would be approximately 50,000 years. So, such claims of bones being 3 million years old are not based on carbon 14, but on where they are found. In other words, it is not direct scientific evidence.

But what about items that are dated to be 40-50,000 years of age, should we accept this as an accurate date. No, we should accept the measurement of C14 in the specimen as an accurate measurement—but the date projected from that amount of C14 is based on an *assumption* that the carbon 14 in the atmosphere at the time that organism died was at the same concentration as the carbon 14 in our atmosphere today. This is not provable and thus is totally assumed. The Bible narrative gives a plausible explanation that the C14 levels in any organism living before the flood would be significantly lower as there was a water layer above the earth that would have reduced the solar radiation reaching the nitrogen and forming C14. Thus anything living before the flood would appear much older than it actually is.

What about the other radiodating techniques for rocks i.e. inorganic matter?

This is based upon another *assumption* that radioactive isotopes decay at a constant rate. But, recent research has demonstrated that solar flares alter the radio decay rates of radioactive isotopes. Further, the decay rates change on a 33 day cycle which corresponds to the rotation of the sun's core.

<https://phys.org/news/2010-08-radioactive-vary-sun-rotation.html>

Again, the water layer above the earth as the Bible describes would impact radio decay. We don't know the impact the flood had on radioisotopes on the earth. And the Bible describes a scenario, in which the sun burns 7 times hotter and the moon burns as bright as the sun, this would have been when the water layer was over the earth. (Isa 30:26)

If any of those unprovable assumptions are true, then the radio dating is completely unreliable because we don't know the rates and starting points of when the earth was created.

So the point is, science doesn't have any reliable evidence to refute the Genesis narrative.



## THURSDAY

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The lesson points out that Jesus and the New Testament writers took the Old Testament account of creation literally and this gives added reliability to the creation account. I don't dispute this at all.

But if one were to be specific to this line of evidence, all one could ultimately conclude is that the Bible writers believed the Bible account to be true, their belief doesn't prove it to be true.

In fact, did the Bible writer believe other things that were not true and for which they had to change their beliefs?

- Did the Apostles originally believe Jesus would rule with power over?
- Did they originally seek to have the highest positions of power in Jesus' kingdom?
- Did they originally believe they shouldn't associate with non-Jews?
- In other words, were there many beliefs the Bible writers didn't understand and had to grow into truth as Jesus and the Holy Spirit revealed it to them. So, critics could argue that just because the New Testament writers believed something only proves that they believed it.

I personally agree with them on creation and believe they were correct, but don't believe in creation merely because they did, but because it is true and the evidence is overwhelming for it.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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*The Journal of the Watcher* Video is available for FREE streaming at [comeandreason.com](http://comeandreason.com)

**September 17-19 2020:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC National Conference in Dallas, TX

**October 3, 2020:** Come and Reason will have a one day seminar in Chattanooga TN on Healing the Mind, Recovering from Sexual Abuse, the Impact of Digital Media on Kids and more. Details coming soon.

**October 9-10, 2020:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH

**November 6-7, 2020:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>