

WHAT IS THE AGE OF THE EARTH?

a. Introduction

b. History of the Guesses of the Age of the Earth

Conflict over age of the earth pre-dates modern science. Paganism always believed in an “old earth”; Bible believers always believed in a “young earth”

Augustine (354-430) *City of God*, Book 12, chapters 10-13;

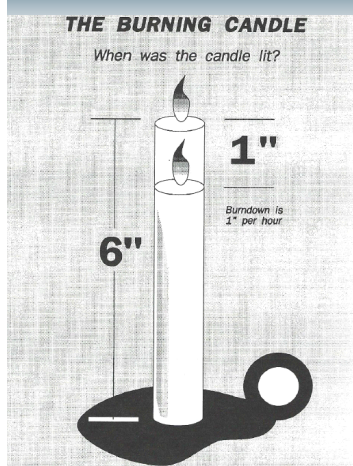
Luther’s Genesis commentary: (1483-1546);

Calvin’s commentary on Genesis: (1509-1565);

Wesley’s *Survey of the Wisdom of God in the Creation* (1763) (1701-1791).

c. The Guesswork required to make various “clocks” work.

A Candle “Clock”



Starting length (in)

L_o

Burn rate (in/hr)

$[L/t]$

Burn duration (hr)

T

Measured length now (in)

L_m

$$L_o - [L/t] * T = L_m$$

Solving for burn duration . . .

$$\frac{[L_o - L_m]}{[L/t]} = T$$

ALWAYS need to insert values for initial condition (L_o) and process rate during the entire duration of the clock (L/t is only a simple average that requires details of any changes in the rate).

The same principles apply to all radioactive clocks. Their discordant dates imply that conjectured initial conditions and process rate estimates are not realistic because they aren’t derived from on-the-scene observations

BIBLEFRAMEWORK

Discordant dates from radioactive “clocks”

1. New Zealand, Mt. Ngauruhoe, eruption 1954 (60 yrs ago at dating which gave dates from 270,000 years (K-Ar), 133 million years (Rb-Sr), 200 million years (Sm-Samarium—Nd-Neodymium), 3.9 billion years (Pb-Pb)
2. East African Rift Valleys lava from Pliocene (supposedly < 5 million years old) which gave a Rb-Sr isochron age of 773 million years
3. Igneous rocks on rim of Grand Canyon give dates older than the igneous rocks at the bottom.

BIBLEFRAMEWORK

Discordant dates from radioactive Carbon-14 “clocks”

Cosmic ray protons penetrate Earth’s magnetic field to turn N-14 into C-14

C-14 become CO2 which plant life absorb in same ratio of C-12/C-14 as surrounding atmosphere

Plant dies isolating C14 from surrounding atmosphere so it decays with half-life of 5730 years.

Why is it found in ALL rock strata, even in diamonds, that are millions of years old?

$$L_o - [L/t] * T = L_m$$

$$\frac{[L_o - L_m]}{[L/t]}$$

Carbon-14 should not exist in organic debris older than about 70,000 years. Why, then, is it found in nearly every strata of rock on earth?

d. Conclusion

- a. Can't be answered by the normal scientific method
- b. There's been a constant and radical disagreement between the Biblical revelation and unbelieving thought over millennia of time
- c. Biblical revelation is the **ONLY** source of observational data

Conjectures can create many scientific origin theories

"It is universally thought that it is impossible to construct a falsifiable theory which is consistent with the thousands of observations indicating an age of billions of years, but which holds that the Universe is only a few thousand years old. I consider such a view to be a slur on the ingenuity of theoretical physicists: we can construct a falsifiable theory with any characteristic you care to name."

Frank Tipler, *Proceedings of the 1984 Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*, Vol. 2, 900

- d. Anti-biblical naturalism is pure conjecture and has systematically produced discordant age estimates
- e. The earth is no more than about 6000 years old.